FTA NEWS

FOOD, TOBACCO, AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS U... CIO

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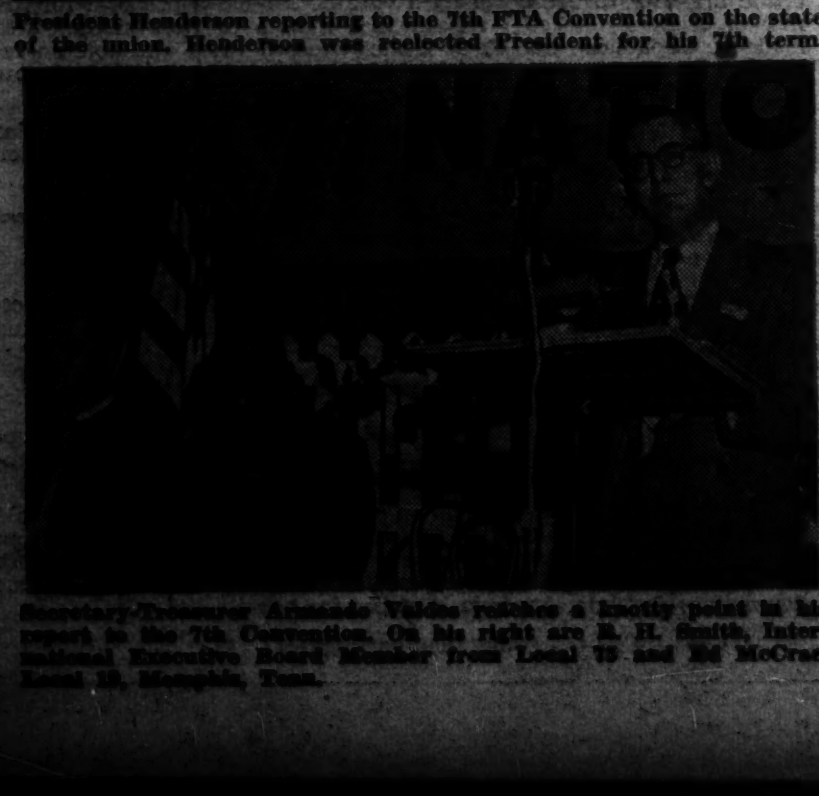
Organize—Keynote of 7th FTA Convention

Here is a part of the 7th National Convention of FTA-CIO held February 14 - 18 in Santa Cruz, California. Jack Montgomery, director of Region 5, is walking up to the mike on the floor.



President Henderson reporting to the 7th FTA Convention on the state of the union. Henderson was reelected President for his 7th term.

Secretary-Treasurer Armando Valdez reaches a knotty point in his report to the 7th Convention. On his right are R. H. Smith, International Executive Board Member from Local 75 and Ed McCrae, Local 19, Memphis, Tenn.

Local 160 Wins Pact

On the heels of General Motors handing its UAW-CIO employes a two cent wage cut because their agreement ties wages to a cost of living index, Local 160 FTA-CIO, Hamilton, Ohio, won five cents across the board, making a gain of twenty-two and a half cents an hour wage increase in one year of organization under the Taft-Hartley law.

The determined position of the local against the policy of many of the influential CIO and AFL leaders enabled the negotiating committee led by Al Green to force this increase from the huge American Home Foods, Inc., for its subsidiary Duff's Baking Mix Division, covering some 350 workers.

Many articles in the agreement were vastly improved over the first contract signed last year after the plant was organized and won bargaining rights, by-passing the NLRB and having its election conducted by the American Arbitration Association.

The company's attempt to impose strict disciplinary rules and make them a part of the agreement was defeated as well as their attempt to split off parts of the bargaining unit.

Gains were made in such articles as vacations, check-

(Continued on Page 7)

Delegates OK FTA Organizing Drives

Two main keynotes marked the 7th National Convention of FTA, held February 14-18 in Santa Cruz, California —Organize the Unorganized and Repeal the Taft-Hartley law.

Parallel with these were other equally important decisions on political action, labor unity and the fight to realize the pro-labor promises of the Truman administration

Officers Reports (which passed on the report and recommendations of the General Officers), the main program involves:

1. "That we adopt as basic policy the four programmatic points outlined in President Henderson's report.

(These included organising, consolidation, labor unity and international cooperation, political action.)

2. "A policy of concentrated organizing drives. A selected industry and area to be picked and everything we've got thrown into it. That means concentration of finances and personnel until the job is completed. While this type of drive lasts, all other types of organizing by the international becomes secondary.

3. "Consolidate our strength in plants where we have contracts, but where a large number of workers are not in the union.

4. "Where we have a local and a base of operation and a large number of unorganized workers around that base, it is imperative that there too we begin organizational work."

FUNDS EARMARKED

The Officers Report Committee recommended—and the convention agreed, after lengthy discussion—that FTA per capita be raised from 75 cents per member to 85 cents, with the increase earmarked for new organizing.

(In addition, the convention ok'd a 10 per cent cut in all national office salaries above $250 a month, with the amount saved also earmarked for new organizing.)

ORGANIZING REPORT

The report of the Committee on Organization laid down two main concentration points for new organizing drives—the cigar industry and the fresh fruit and vegetable packing industry now partially organized in Local 78.

"The idea of concentration is to get the most out of the organization dollar," the report said. "In all cases, new organizing will be based on the principle of expanding from a base of operation where we have an existing local."

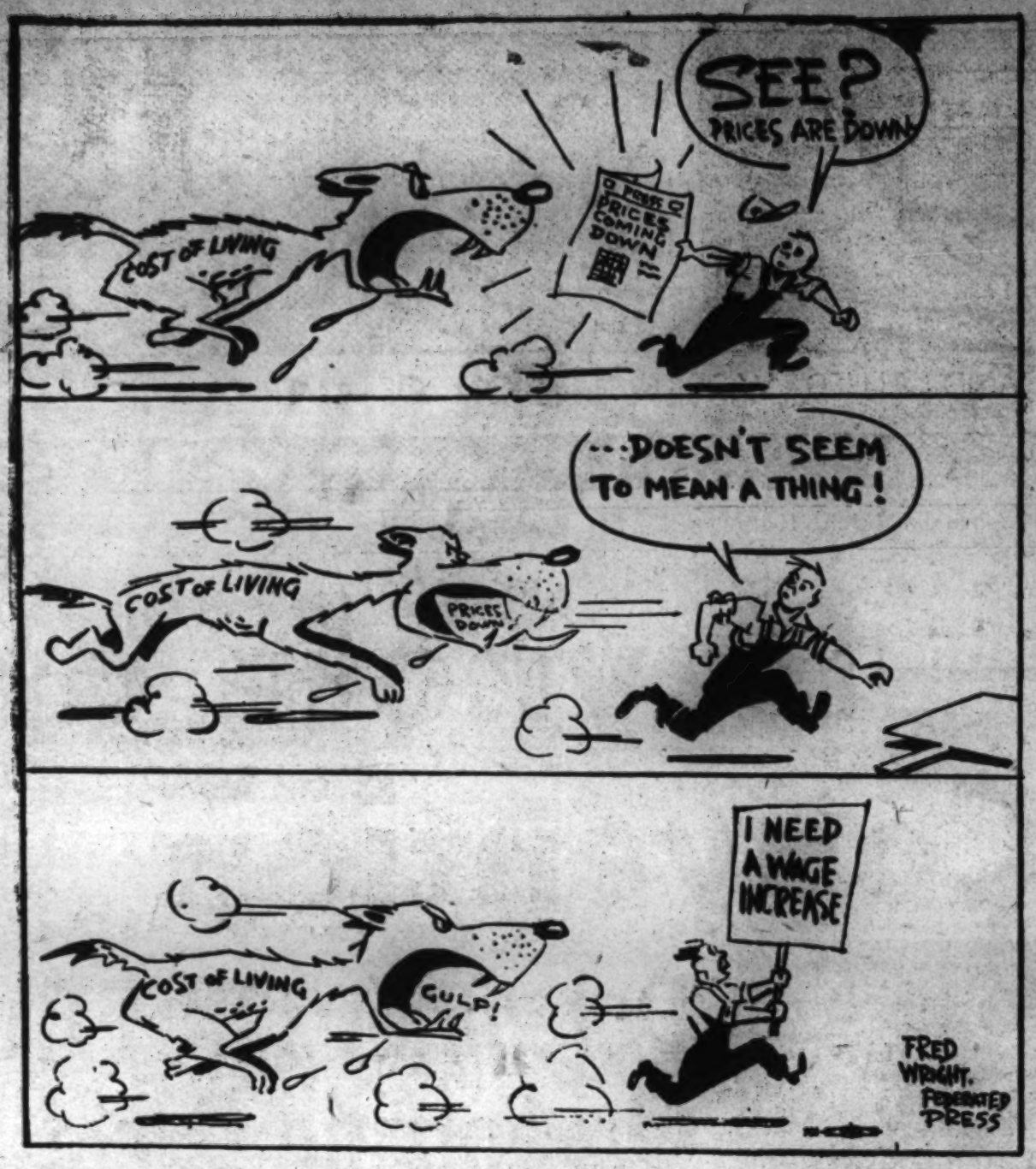
The Committee also outlined steps for successful organizing work, including consultation with locals involved, tightening up the gap between workers under contract and those who pay dues, and active work by Industry Councils on problems of chain plants.

CONSTITUTION, RESOLUTIONS

Changes in the FTA constitution were adopted to carry out these and other points in the program, including new safeguards against employer lawsuits that have tied up union funds in legal redtape.

Twenty-two resolutions were passed by the convention, ranging from demands for action on Taft-Hartley repeal to world labor unity, political action, civil rights, legislative program and the like.

(see inside for text of major resolutions and other stories of convention action).



Score on Congress

SIXTY DAYS OF FAILURE

By ELIZABETH SASULY

The 81st Congress has been in session for two months. Not one of the Truman "Fair Deal" measures has been enacted or even reached the floor of Congress.

What has Congress been doing? Here is the story, issue by issue:

I.

TAFT-HARTLEY REPEAL AND RESTORATION OF WAGNER ACT

Senate

The Senate Labor Committee, after dumping the two-package deal, promised speedy conclusion of hearings on the Democratic Administration one-package bill (S 249). This bill "improves" the Wagner Act by limitations on secondary boycotts and jurisdictional disputes and provisions for condisputes and provisions for controlling national emergency strikes.

Committee hearings, scheduled to end February 10, were extended to February 23, allowing employer witnesses to sound off against labor.

Now the Committee is in executive session, deciding what kind of bill to report to the Senate. At the earliest, Senate debate will begin by the middle of March—first of April is more likely—and debate will be lengthy. This means that unions will enter contract negotiations this spring under Taft-Hartley, not Wagner Act conditions.

T-H 'Amendments'

When labor's two-package demand (first package, 100 per cent Taft-Hartley repeal—second package, consideration of amendments to the Wagner act) was denied by the Administration, the gates were opened for a flood of Taft-Hartley amendments and the anti-Taft-Hartley Democrats put themselves in the position of bargaining over how much of Taft-Hartley they would agree to.

Even if Democrats use their eight to five majority on the Senate Labor Committee to report S 249 without amendments, there are strong indications that they are trying to make deals with Republicans and Dixiecrats to agree to certain amendments on the Senate floor.

Therefore, do not be misled by specific provisions of the bill which will be reported by the Senate Labor Committee. Whatever these may be, Democratic promises for repeal of Taft-Hartley are now shadow boxing unless Administration forces line up for an all-out floor fight against the Taft and Dixiecrat amendments which would keep Taft-Hartley but give it another name.

Note that the President, in his Jackson day dinner speech, asked for a "fair and decent" labor law, without even calling for passage of S 249 without amendments.

"Thus far at least the Administration has failed to display strong leadership and direction on Capitol Hill in repealing the Taft-Hartley Act and replacing it with its own legislation," was the comment of the conservative WASHINGTON POST February 26.

House

Here the Labor Committee on March 1, with all 25 members present, defeated Congressman Kelley's (D., Pa.) two-package bill which called for straight repeal of Taft-Hartley and no hearings. Nine Democrats voted for Kelley's bill. Seven Democrats and nine Republicans teamed up against it. (For the Kelley resolution: Powell (ALP, N.Y.), Bailey (D., W. Va.), Irving (D., Mo.), Jacobs (D., Ind.), Burke (D., Ohio), Steed (D., Okla.), Wier (D., Minn.)

It is reported that shortly before the Committee vote Secretary of Labor Tobin put the heat on privately to influence the committee against the Kelley two-package deal. There will now be hearings on HR 2032 (Lesinski, D., Mich.), one-package Administration bill in the House which is identical with S 249.

Can't Duck Issue

But Congressmen who want to duck a real vote for or against Taft-Hartley still have to reckon with the pledge made by Rep. Marcantonio (ALP, N.Y.). He will offer his repeal bill (HR 259) as a substitute for whatever comes out of the Labor Committee and force a record vote on the floor.

ACTION: Plan for a continuing campaign. Pressure must be stepped up on both Senators and Representatives for real Taft-Hartley repeal and restoration of the Wagner Act. More petitions, letters from individuals, CIO-AFL-RR union community meetings, heat on Democratic Party leaders.

If you're not too far from Washington, consider a phone call by group or rank and file members to Senators and Representatives (Phone NATIONAL 3120.).

II.

WAGE-HOUR ACT

House

Administration-approved wage-hour amendments (HR 2033: Lesinski, D., Mich.) provide for 75 cent minimum wage with escalator clause allowing industry committees to go up to $1.00 but also to come back down to 75 cents in periods of "general recession in business activity." (Hardly consistent with statement by Truman Economic Advisor Keyserling who said (Feb. 28, NY Times) that unions should go after wage increases to prevent depression.)

Bill also covers some seven millien workers now excluded from law (agricultural labor on factory farms, seamen, and others) and eliminates overtime exemptions for food processing workers. Some, but not the most important, portal-to-portal law provisions repealed.

Promises Broken

As in T.-H., promised short hearings were dragged out, allowing industry representatives to plead for exemption from the law and oppose all improvements. Lack of a real pro-labor majority on the committee (in spite of 15 Democrats out of 25 members) has resulted in reported compromises to reduce the coverage and take out any reference to $1.00 minimum. Committee was scheduled to report the bill March 4.

In the meantime, action was speedy on special bill (HR 859) excluding longshoremen from wage-hour law (passed 230-7) in order to kill pending back-pay suits.

Senate

No hearings scheduled.

III. CIVIL RIGHTS

Poll Tax, FEPC, Anti-Lynch

House

Although many civil rights bills are in the hopper, no Administration "must" bills have been introduced to abolish the poll tax, end lynching, or prohibit discrimination in employment (FEPC).

House Administration Committee subcommittee meeting scheduled for February 2 to consider a poll tax bill, fell through for lack of a quorum. (Chairman of this subcommittee is Southern poll-taxer Harrison of Virginia. Nine of 15 Democrats on the full committee are Southerners.) No hearings have been scheduled on other bills.

Senate

To make possible a vote by the Senate on passage of civil rights legislation, change in the Senate rules is necessary so that a Dixiecrat filibuster can be stopped by majority vote. This is the key to civil rights legislation, no matter what the House does. (The House has passed some civil rights bills in past Congresses.)

Rules Change Needed

This rules change should have been made the day Congress opened. Instead, after long hearings, the Senate Rules Committee defeated the Morse-Myers bills for closing of debate by majority vote 11-2 and reported out the Hayden bill (S Res 15) continuing the present two-thirds requirement for ending debate with some technical changes in rules.

Dixiecrats are now filibustering against the motion to take up this minor change. One favorable development is a ruling by Vice President Barkley that filibusterers will not be given relief by calling up other legislation every couple of days.

But instead of forcing Dixiecrats to talk day and night, the Democratic leadership is allowing the Senate to recess at five and six pm daily. Submission of petition for cloture has been postponed until next week, at which time Barkley is expected to reverse the Vandenberg ruling of last summer and rule that debate can be stopped on a motion to take up a bill.

Even if the present filibuster is stopped, no effective action on civil rights legislation can be expected in the 81st Congress unless an amendment to be offered by Senator Myers to the Hayden bill, which will require majority vote only is passed. This requires performance on pledges by northern Democrats and Republicans.

ACTION: What progress has been made in the Senate today resulted from effective mass pressure by Negro organizations and some labor groups. Letters and wires should go to Senators demanding support for Senator Myers amendment to S RES 15 to cut off debate by majority vote.

UnAmerican Committee

The drive to abolish the Committee was stopped before it started by failure of House Democratic leadership to take this issue up in the Democratic caucus when Congress opened. The Committee is therefore continued for the duration of the 81st Congress.

On February 8, by a vote of 353 to 29, $200,000 was appropriated for the UnAmerican Committee. Looks as if Democratic National Committee Chairman McGrath's statement that the Committee had "no future" won't be borne out.

IV. RENT CONTROL

House

Hearings completed by House Banking and Currency Committee. Real estate lobby has its big guns out, with landlords' lobbies swarming Washington and anti-rent control speeches going out under Congressional mailing privileges of Congressmen Gwinn (R., N.Y.), and Mason (R., Ill.). Legislation will be reported for House action almost immediately.

ACTION: Write and wire Congressmen supporting adequate rent control bill. We support HR 2291 (Douglas, D. Calif.) providing for 27 months extension, reimposition of controls where listed, and elimination of 15 per cent "voluntary" increases.

V. SOCIAL SECURITY

House

With unemployment increasing and state USES offices closing because of lack of funds to carry increased work loads, the House denied money requested by the Bureau of Employment Security for more adequate services in state USES offices.

A $14 million deficiency appropriation was requested by the government agency partially to make up for $30 million cut made by the 80th Congress. Bureau of the Budget cut this to $4,987,000, and the bill came to the House floor in this form.

Funds Slashed

On February 15 the House voted to give $10 million, but the Democratic majority turned down by a vote of 237-148 a proposal for $14 million originally asked for because a motion for this amount was made by Republican Sadlak of Conn. (Record votes available on request.) Only six Democrats joined Marcantonio (ALP, N.Y.) to vote for the $14 million.

House Appropriations Committee is now considering the regular appropriation for 1950, again cut by the Budget Bureau. $135 million is being considered, $175 million is needed.

ACTION: Write Congressmen—don't play politics with workers' needs. We support an appropriation of $175 million.

Senate

Appropriations Committee considering deficiency appropriation acted on by the House. We support $25 million in place of $10 million passed by House.

Old Age Pensions—Disability Insurance—Relief

House

Administration bills (HR 2892 and 2893) introduced, but not supported by Chairman Doughton (D., N.C.) of Ways and Means Committee:

1) extend benefits to 20 million people; 2) increase maximum old age benefits from $85 to $150; 3) cut retirement age for women from 65 to 60; 4) provide disability insurance for first time; 5) increase tax on both workers and empolyers; 6) provide (for first time since depression) for federal grants to states for home relief.

(Continued on Page 11)

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State of the Union

By Donald Henderson

General President

(This report, delivered by President Henderson as part of the General Officers Report to the 7th Convention, is the keynote document of the meeting. In the introduction, printed here, President Henderson outlines the situation of the labor movement at the present time and sets forth the four main points of the coming campaigns.)

The last two-year period since the 6th National Convention in anuary 1947, has been a period in which reaction has been in the saddle. This period coincides roughly with the reactionary 80th Congress. It has been a time in which employers have been on the offensive around the bargaining table, in the plants, in the market places by increasing the cost of living and by their dominant influence in the halls of state legislatures and the national Congress.

It has been a period in which the Truman administration gave no effective support to labor in its fight against the reactionary employers and did much through the issuance of strike-breaking injunctions to hurt labor.

While the workers generally met this offensive with militant struggles in the early part of 1947, increasing division and disunity within labor's ranks over economic and political policies, both at home and abroad, have prevented the overall mass struggle of millions of organized workers throughout the United States which could have halted this employers' offensive.

Disunity over Taft-Hartley, disunity in wage policy increases, disunity on the political field, and disunity over the questions affecting international working class solidarity and foreign policy have contributed much to the success of the employers' offensive during the past two years. Especially during the past year has the brunt of this employers' offensive been felt on the American working class and on the American trade union movement.

FTA CAN BE PROUD

Under these extremely difficult conditions, FTA can be proud of the progressive and militant struggles which its membership has put up on the main questions they have been faced with: struggle for prompt contract renewals, wage increases and improvements in our existing contracts, struggle against Taft-Hartleyism and especially against the anti-labor National Labor Relations Board, the struggle against anti-labor legislation and for progressive political action both in the legislative bodies and in the elections, and the struggle to maintain democratic peaceful world relations and solidarity of the working class in their common struggle against employers everywhere.

We have suffered some losses and made many gains in terms of this tough situation. Your national officers believe that today we have a more compact, unified union with a tougher and more understanding and more capable leadership from top to bottom than we had two years ago.

While the objective situation has been of such a character that our main attention has had to be placed on maintaining and strengthening our own union, rather than having opportunities and funds to continue the basic job of organizing the unorganized, FTA is stronger and in a better position to go forward than ever before.

In spite of tremendous financial burdens coupled with the necessity for greatly reducing our staff, FTA today is in a better position financially than it was two years ago. However ,it should be recognized that the struggle has primarily been a defensive one and no progress to speak of has been made in tacklin gthe basic problem of organizing the unorganized.

COST OF 'COLD WAR'

Today while we face a world situation in which relationships have steadily become worse and where "cold war" maneuvers, military pacts and military lend-lease are still the talk of the day, domestically the present Congress and present administration are fully committed in words to a pro-labor and pro-people's program at home. How these two contradictory programs can be reconciled is one of the most important problems facing the American working class.

Today on the home front, American workers are faced with a still higher cost of living, reduced take-home pay, increasing speed-up in the plants, spreading layoffs, shortening of the work week with a corresponding decrease in pay, spotty but spreading unemployment and increasing resistance to wage increases and other contract benefits, including increasing job insecurity. Around these immediate burning economic needs of the workers, the main struggles of the American trade movement must be centered.

At the same time the American working class, and particularly the membership of FTA must be mobilized to force Congress and the administration to make full delivery on the progressive pro-labor promises made during the recent campaign to raise the standard of living of the common people. The membership of FTA and the workers in our industries are particularly affected by the need to re-enact the Wagner Act; enact higher minimum wages and extension of the coverage of the Fair Labor Standards Act; higher benefits under the social security system and extension of these benefits to all oour membership and all workers in our industries, including agricultural workers; low-cost housing, medical and health insurance benefits. All of these laws are especially needed by workers in our industries because of their generally lower standard of living and because in the past most of our workers have not had the benefit of any of these laws.

The burden of the "cold war" with its constantly increasing billions for re-equipping and re-arming future allies for a new war falls most heavily on our memberships in the low-income groups. Every additional billion dollars spent for re-armaments at home and abroad and for preparation for a new war means less money to raise our standard of living and less money to put into effect the social security program promised by the Truman administration and the new Congress.

FOUR MAIN PROBLEMS

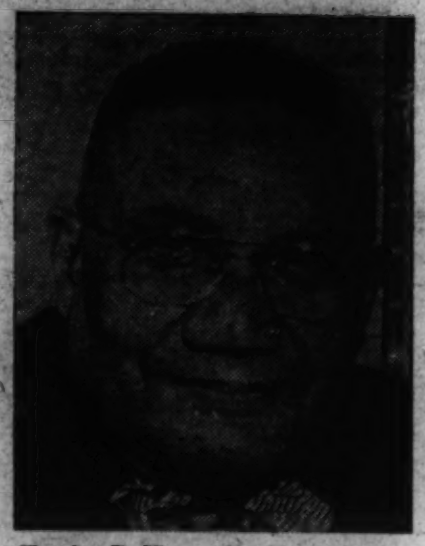
On the basis of effective mobilization of the rank and file and the securing of unity for mass militant action, these four basic problems facing the American labor movement and the American working class can be solved.

First and foremost is the struggle around the immediate pressing economic need of the workers for wage increases, contract benefits, against speed-up, lay-offs, shortening of the work week without reduced pay, for the introduction and improvement in our contracts of health, pension and benefit funds, strengthening of job security.

Second, united mass struggle to guarantee the full delivery of the progressive pro-labor, pro-people's program promised in the last election and for extended progressive political action.

Third, progressive militant and united action to organize the unorganized.

Fourth, struggle to end the "cold war" and make possible a reduction in armaments and the expenditure of billions for re-arming and re-equipping foreign countries in preparation for a new war, and guarantee us that more of the national income will be used to raise the standard of living of the people.



Charles P. Howard, who was scheduled to speak at FTA's Convention, was unable to come. Mr. Howard was the keynote speaker at the Progressive Party convention in Philadelphia last summer.

Farm-Labor Unity Urged

Farmers and workers need unity not just as an ideal but as a practical matter of promoting their own and each others' welfare, the FTA convention said in its resolution on aid to the family-size farm.

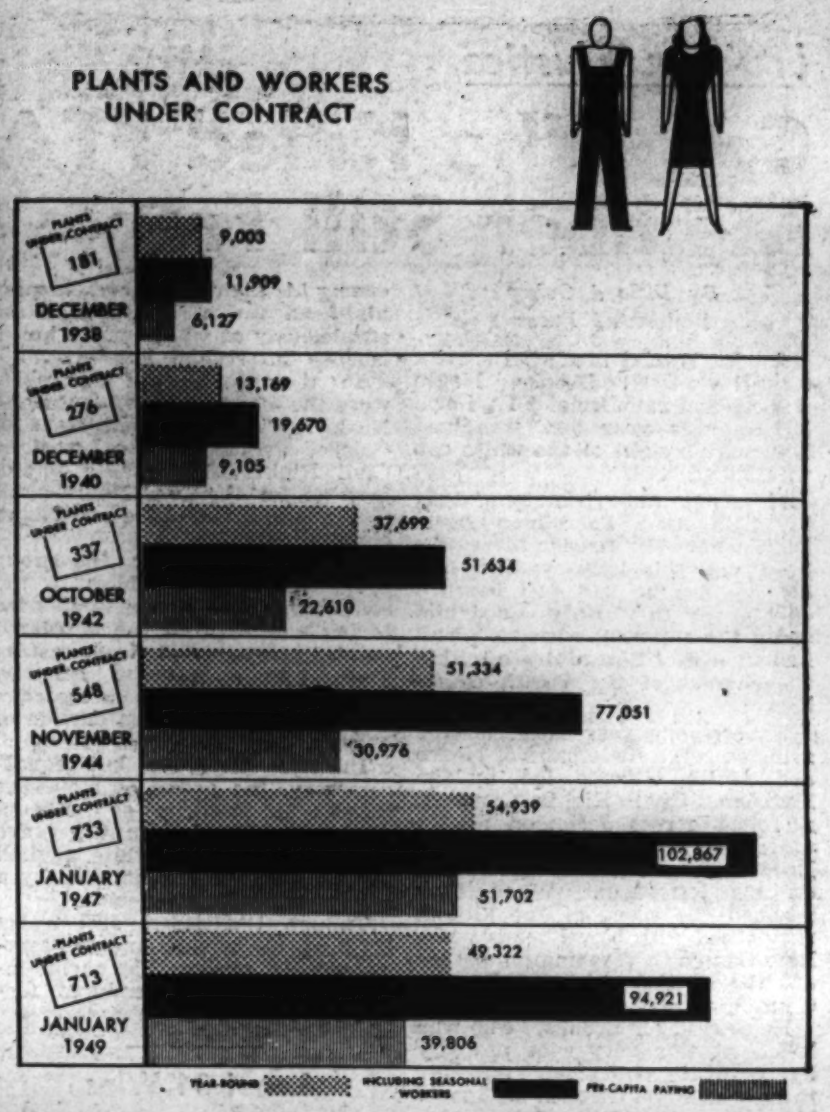
"Falling farm income and the continued high cost of living are facing farmers and workers alike with a severe economic crisis that can destroy the living standards of both unless united action is taken," the resolution said.

This crisis is brought on by the "unbridled greed for profits of the food and other farm produce monopolies," it added, pointing out that farm income and workers' purchasing power both suffer as a result.

Urging close, working unity between the two groups, the resolution called for support prices at 100 per cent of parity for all farmers grossing less than $10,000 a year and for a guaranteed net income for each family farm of not less than $3,000.

It also asked for adequate credit for farmers; more rural electrification; soil conservation; crop insurance; rural health and housing programs and a long range farm program democratically run by farmers themselves.

"In order to achieve this, we urge all unions to cooperate with bonafide farm organizations, to bring the problems of the family farmer to the attention of their members and to campaign to educate farmers on the mutual needs of farmers and workers."



Organize-Answer to Employers' Attacks

By John Tisa

Director of Organization

(Following are excerpts from the report of the Director of Organization to the 7th FTA Convention.)

Shortly following FTA's 1947 convention, the Taft-Hartley law was passed which gave employers the green light to attempt to smash all labor unions. The employers were particularly keen on picking the progressive unions first because progressive unions do not allow themselves to become company-dominated or dominated by big business-minded labor leaders. If the employers could be successful in their attacks against what they called the "left-wing unions" then the so-called "right-wing unions" would be easy meat for them. Therefore, in facing the blows of reaction our international realized that we were fighting in the front-line trenches for the entire labor movement.

Fortunately, we were not alone. Other international unions, CIO, AFL and independent, also refused to knuckle to the criminal requirements and red-tape of the Taft-Hartlay law. Our union was among the first to condemn the Taft-Hartley law as an employer weapon to smash the labor movement. We [illegible] the first to outline a policy of non-compliance. We stuck to the policy of fighting Taft-Hartley down the line.

PROUD OF FIGHT

We are proud of the fight we put up against this slave-labor act. The Taft-Hartley law encouraged traitors within our ranks to initiate secession among locals. The law encouraged stoolpigeons to try to take over the control of osme of our locals. The law encouraged the buzzards of the labor movement to raid a number of our locals. Both AFL and CIO unions are guilty of vulture-like raids on our union.

Because of our progressivism, because of our tenacity and ability to fight against odds, our union has survived the multitude of attacks against us. Often we beat a combination of collusion between the employers, the raiding union and the traitors. A union which survives struggles of this sort becomes stronger in the course of battle and becomes less likely prey to future attacks.

For these reasons the organizational work of our international has necessarily been for the last two years defensive. The finances allotted for new organizational work were used to protect our membership from our enemies.

With united pressure on Congress by the people, the administration can be compelled to live up to its promise to repeal the Taft-Hartley law. With repeal will come an increased desire on the part of unorganized workers for union organization.

FTA ON OFFENSIVE

This means we should be prepared to go on the offensive to take advantage of such an upsurge. We will need finances and personnel for organizing drives to come. Though repeal of Taft-Hartley will encourage new organization, yet it would be a serious danger for present unions to decrease their militancy on the theory of "waiting till it's safer and easier." Taft-Hartley repeal is not the answer for unions now having trouble—it would not change the situation.

Increasing economic strength of weaker locals is the only sound solution for saving them, and second, it is the only way to fight for the repeal of Taft-Hartley. Therefore, let's not depend on Taft-Hartley repeal — let's build our economic strength.

Louisiana Justice

Cop Who Killed FTA Member Still Free

By Dillard Oakes
Federated Press

An interracial memorial service for Roy Cyril Brooks, Negro worker and member of FTA Local 309, slain a year ago, was held here within sight of the white cop who killed him.

It was in mid-afternoon of Feb. 27, 1948, that Patrolman Alvin Bladsacker hit Brooks over the head with his billy, yanked him off the bus he had just boarded on his way to work, prodded him along the sidewalk with his pistol and then shot him to death within the shadow of the Parish courthouse.

Exactly one year later, on the same street, a little band of Negro and white citizens led by the Louisiana Civil Rights Congress marched across Jefferson Sq. to the spot where Brooks was killed. Each marcher wore a black band on his left arm. When they reached the scene of the killing, they stood with bared heads while Rev. Dennis C. Washington, pastor of the First African Baptist Church, uttered a prayer.

He prayed for Brooks, "who was killed at this very spot unjustly by a white policeman" and for those who stood there in his honor. He prayed that "the courts render justice for this man, so that no one ever again will suffer the same fate."

It was symbolic that as Washington prayed, Bladsacker still directed traffic at the ferry landing not more than 100 feet away. While the mourners memoralized the dead victim, the indicted but still unpunished killer jauntily swung his night stick and, turning his head for a moment, stared suspiciously at what was to him a curious interracial spectacle.

In the group that assembled were the leaders of the West Bank Natl. Assn. for Advancement of Colored People and the Louisiana Civil Rights Congress, a photographer for the local Negro press and a number of white and Negro civic leaders.

Leaving the square, the group proceeded in automobiles to the cemetery where Brooks was buried to lay a wreath on the murdered man's grave. His last resting place was a swampy Jimcrow burial ground, located on the edge of a garbage dump just outside of Gretna.

In this "separate but equal" cemetery, the group of mourners stood again in silence as the benediction was read. On the grave rested a wreath of white gladioli and yellow daffodils donated by a civic-minded Negro florist.

Though Bladsacker still walks his beat, the wreath and the service were a pledge that racial injustice will not be endured forever.

Local 84 Wins

By Mrs. Garold Leslie, Reporter

FTA Local 84 reports renewal of last year's contract with a five cent raise at the Acme-Evans Milling Co. of Indianapolis, Ind.

The contract is considered to be one of the best in the milling industry.

Rep. IVto Marcantonio, ALP, N.Y., friend of FTA and staunch fighter for all workers. (See special article on p. 12.)

Secret Spy Bill Rushed

The House after little more than 40 minutes of discussion passed the administration bill setting up the Central Intelligence Agency as a super spy organization by a vote of 384 to 4.

The bill, if passed by the Senate, would give the agency the right to send operatives into labor and business organizations at home and abroad. It would relieve the agency of the necessity of accounting for funds spent or borrowed from other government agencies in the usual way and would provide for entry of foreign spies into this country without regard for immigration quotas. A limit of 100 a year is placed on the latter provision.

Votes were registered in a roll call forced by Marcantonio. Those voting against it were: Marcantonio, Adam Clayton Powell (D.N.Y.), Toby Morris (D. Okla.), Reva Back Bosone (D. Utah).

FTA Hits Wage, Hour Stalling

(See 'Score on Congress' p. 2)

A "most emphatic protest" against reported deals to cut agricultural and other food and tobacco workers out of the wage hour law amendments was sent to Congress by President Henderson this week.

Henderson's protest followed testimony by FTA Washington Representative Elizabeth Sasuly which demolished industry arguments in favor of continuing present discriminations in the new form of the law.

"Reports reaching our members indicate a concerted attempt on foot to continue the outrageous discriminations practiced against them in the present wage hour law," Henderson said in a wire to House Labor Committee Chairman John Lesinski.

"These reports indicate that agricultural workers are to continue to be shut out from the minimum wage requirements of the law and further that chiselling employers in socalled agricultural industries are to be allowed to go on evading payment of overtime rates for overtime work.

"There is absolutely no excuse for such discrimination," Henderson added. "The alibi of 'agricultural worker' does not stand up. The bulk of these socalled agricultural workers are employed on huge corporation farms that operate on an industrial basis."

FTA Washington Representative Sasuly's testimony was mainly devoted to the question of overtime pay for overtime work in the food and tobacco processing industries. She showed that such firms under contract with FTA were well able to pay the overtime due the workers, and that arguments of "bankruptcy" if the requirement were written into the law did not hold water.

Action urged on FTA members to end the stall on wage hour improvements include:

1. Write Congress urging elimination of exemptions from overtime requirements; 2. eliminate "area of production" clause in present act; 3. eliminate first processing clause which denies overtime to food and vegetable processing workers and 4. eliminate seasonable exemptions which deny overtime to tobacco workers.

In addition, Congress should be urged to raise the minimum to $1.00 an hour and to include agricultural workers in the law.

This is known in the trade as "cheesecake." It's a poor name for anything as nice as this—but unfortunately the name, address and phone number that go with it is unknown to the editor of FTA News.

Convention Greetings

THE WOOLSON SPICE COMPANY
TOLEDO, OHIO

Convention Greetings

SOUTHERN PECAN SHELLING CO.
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

Greetings

Elmont Cemetery, Inc.

Beth David Cemetery

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FTA Local No. 25

Ban Union Raiding, FTA Urges AFL, CIO

(The wages and welfare of all workers are threatened when one union raids another, the 7th Convention of FTA declared in a unanimous resolution on the subject. Text follows:)

The whole structure of the CIO and the gains in wages and working conditions made by CIO members over the past thirteen years are endangered by the vicious practice of raiding now indulged in by officials o certain AFL and CIO unions.

Such raids help the boss and harm the workers. They weaken the union that is raided and corrupt the union that carries on the raiding. They are inevitably followed by worsened conditions, wage cuts and speed-ups, since the boss is able to take advantage of the confusion and disunity that raids create in the minds of the workers.

FTA BEATS RAIDERS

In recent months FTA has met and repelled raids from the AFL Teamsters union, the CIO Auto Workers, the CIO Gas, Coke and Chemical Workers, the Transport Service Employes, the AFL Tobacco Workers union and others. In almost every case the workers involved in the raid have shown their preference for FTA by decisive majorities.

These raids have been carried out on FTA and other progressive unions because we have a program and a history of fighting for the interests of the workers.

Since the Portland Convention of the CIO, an attempt has been made by some labor leaders to make it appear that raiding is to become the official policy of the CIO, and that this has been endorsed and approved by the members of CIO unions.

RANK AND FILE OPPOSED

We know, however, that the rank and file workers do not approve of raiding, since they realize how raiding helps the employers and hurts the workers.

Therefore, the 7th Convention of FTA goes on record condemning the raiding tactics practised by some labor leaders, whether of CIO, AFL or any other union.

We call upon the officers of the CIO to officially condemn all raiding by CIO unions and to repudiate any statements that may be issued seeking to justify such raids. We further urge CIO President Philip Murray to take steps against individuals who may order or promote such disruptive activity.

We pledge our full support to all FTA locals that are now undergoing raids or may be subjected to them in the future, and we express our congratulations to those FTA locals that have successfully withstood raids in the past.

And here's "Tiny" Correia, blues singer from the California Labor School, who wowed the delegates with his union songs and his guitar.

Back FTA Stand On CIO Upholding Union Rights

(First act of the 7th FFA Convention in Santa Cruz, California, was a resolution fully endorsing the stand taken by FTA President Donald Henderson and other FTA delegates to the national CIO convention in Portland, Ore., last November. The resolution, which was passed unanimously, follows in full.)

The FTA delegates to the 1948 CIO convention, led by President Donald Henderson, upheld the right of CIO unions and members to independent political action and the right to disagree on policies which conflict with the wishes and welfare of our members.

The rights that the FTA delegation defended at the CIO convention are basic to the very existence of autonomous international unions. Without them, any labor organization is in danger of coming under dictatorial rule.

The action of President Henderson and the other FTA delegates was taken in the face of vicious booing, threats and the use of bitter personal attacks by the chair.

Therefore, we commend President Henderson, Secretary-Treasurer Armando Valdes and Brothers Duke Cunningham, Ernest Mangoang and Sister Moranda Smith for their courageous and principled stand at the 1948 CIO convention.

We fully endorse the position they took at the convention as being in the best interests of union autonomy and in the interests of the right of all workers to freedom of opinion and expression.

Convention News

This is the special convention issue of FTA News, delayed until the ending of the convention in Santa Cruz and the necessary preparation of a mass of convention material.

The editor has tried to include the most important decisions and actions of the convention, many of them in full text.

Due to limitations of space—and time, that other special enemy of labor editors—some convention actions and other news have necessarily been left out.

The next issue of FTA News will endeavor to catch up on anything that may be missed at this time.

172 Hits Filibuster

FTA Local 172 of San Antonio, Tex., has sent a sharp wire to Sen. Tom Connally protesting the filibuster against civil rights laws in Congress.

"After two months of stalling by the 81st Congress the officers and members Loca l 172 FTA are shocked at news of your participation in the disgraceful and unAmerican Dixiecrat filibuster designed to kill mandated civil rights legislation and slow up repeal of the Taft-Hartley law," the wire said.

"By unanimous vote we demand immediate support of the labor and civil rights program by Congress."

FTA Locals Aid Political Victims

Sharp denunciation of the trail of 12 Communist party leaders in New York was voiced by the 7th FTA convention and by several local unions.

The convention acted on the trial in the civil rights resolution and in a separate resolution denouncing handpicked grand juries.

Two FTA locals that have acted recently are 19 in Memphis, Tenn., and 75 in Houston, Tex.—both in communities where civil rights are more ignored than honored.

The convention resolution on the trial pointed out that no group, political party or even church organization would be safe if the 12 communists were tried for merely belonging to a political party.

A bill to repeal Tennessee's open shop labor law was killed in the Senate. Final vote on the labor-supported bill, introduced by Sen. J. B. Ragon, was 20 to nine against repeal.

Convention Greetings

N. J. Federated Egg Producers Cooperative Association

TOMS RIVER, NEW JERSEY

Greetings from

F. L. F. Farmers Union Cooperative

Farmingdale, N. J.

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GUILD

Greetings from

FTA LOCAL 56

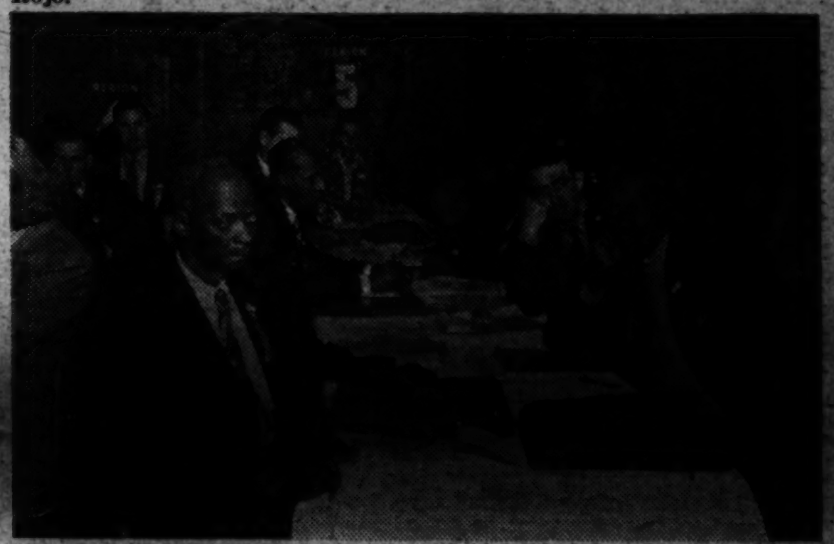
TRENTON, N. J.

Build FTA For Better

Another view of the 7th FTA Convention, looking toward the speakers table. Signs give the main theme of the meeting—Organize the Unorganized and Repeal the Taft-Hartley Law!

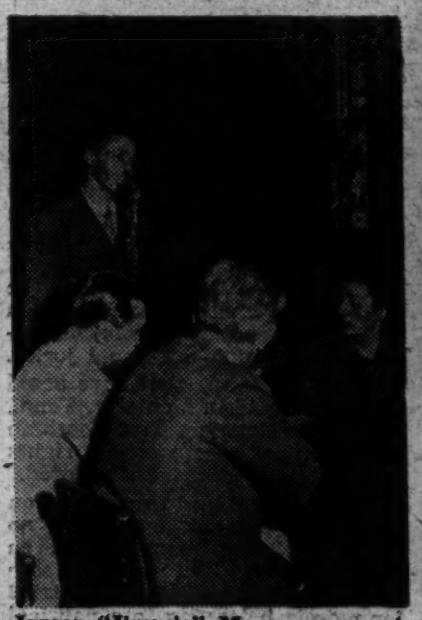
Three Filipino delegates from FTA Local 7 pose outside the convention hotel. From left: Ray Cabanella; Ernesto Mangoang and Trinidad Rojo.

Benjamin Butler, chief steward at Local 80, Camden, N. J., takes the mike during discussion in the convention. Woman delegate on Butler's left is Edna Cooney, secretary-treasurer of the Salinas-Watsonville-Hollister Division of Local 78, Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Workers.

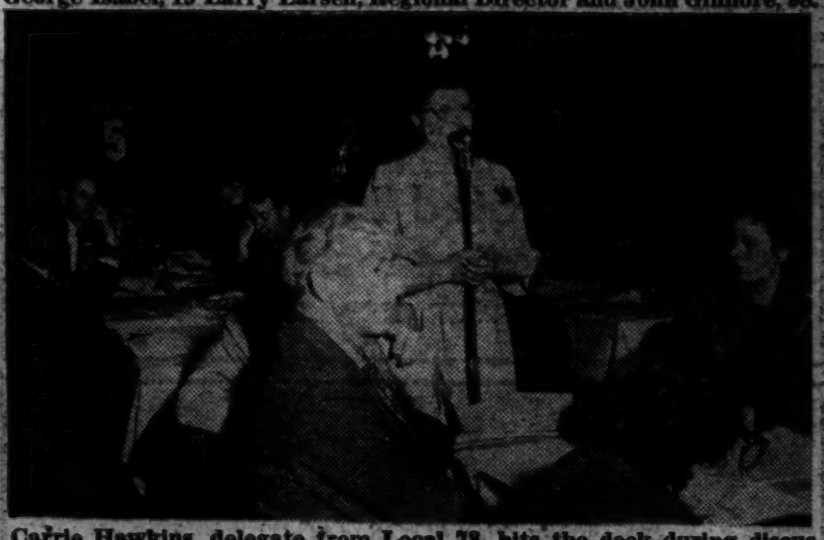


The deep South was well represented. Shown here from left are: John Mack Dyson, Executive Board Member; Earl Fischer, 19; Edward McCrae (top of head); William Barbier, 309; Octavia Jackson, 309; George Isabel, 19 Larry Larsen, Regional Director and John Gilmore, 98.

John Tisa, director of organization, tells the 7th FTA Convention of plans for organizing drives made possible by per capita increase and funds made available by cuts in salaries of officers and staff. Tisa was reelected to his post which was made elective at the 6th Convention.



James "Jimmie" Moore, war veteran and chief shop steward at Libby, McNeill and Libby in Blue Island, Ill., tells how the company fired him in effort to scare the rest of the workers away from fighting for observance of the contract Libby's has been trying to repudiate. The workers didn't scare, any more than Jimmie did. Takes more than Libby's to do that.



Carrie Hawkins, delegate from Local 78, hits the deck during discussion on constitutional changes. On her left is Edna Cooney, secretary-treasurer of SWH Division of 78.

Delegates from Region 4 sit around their table at the 7th FTA Convention. From left: George White; Jimmie Moore; Wallace Brown; Josephine Chlupsa (behind Ellis), all from Local 194; Paul Gardner (back only); May Davis; Louis Jedlicka, Mervin Myers, all off 109; Henry Gistover, 194; Robert Buse, FTA Intl. Representative; Edward Mear, Local 17 William Ellis; Veronica Kryman and John Gallagher, 194.

MERIT AWARD WINNERS

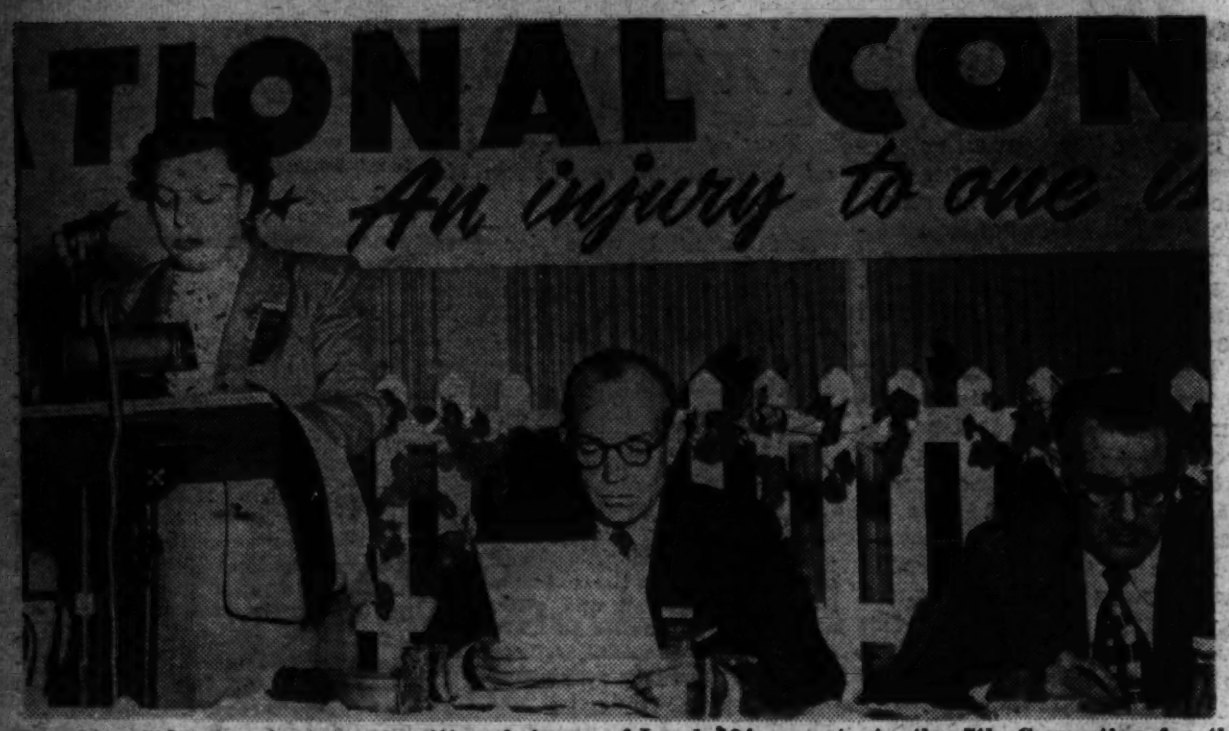
FTA Merit Awards—presented at each convention to members of the union who have made an outstanding contribution during the two years—were given this year to the following rank and filers:

Homer Kelly, Local 9; Bennie Rouse, 45; Earl Fisher, 19; Amelia Guenther, 25; Ralph Scholars, 75; Anna Hurd, 78; Josephine Chlupsa, 194; Mae Davis, 110; Edward Mear, 17; John Gilmore, 98; Dora Sanders, 78.

An award pin was sent to Local 15, Charleston, S. C., for presentation there. The pin consists of a dress FTA button with a small diamond hanging on a pendant.

The Chinese Communists have declared public ownership of industries previously owned by the Kuomintang government or its leaders in North China. The industries include railways, municipal transport systems, postoffice and telegraph, Central Bank, North China Iron & Steel Corp., Tangshan Steelworks, Lungyen Ironworks, China Textile Corp. and others. Industries unconnected with the Kuomintang government remain in private hands.

Life For All Workers



Josephine Chlupsa, grievance committee chairman of Local 194, reports to the 7th Convention for the Officers Report Committee. President Henderson and Secretary-Theasurer Valdes are studying the report as Sister Chlupsa reads it.

The Role Of The Radical

By Trinidad A. Rojo
Local 7

(This article was especially written for FTA News by Trinidad A. Rojo, one of the leaders of FTA Local 7—which in turn is one of FTA's oldest local unions.)

We of Local 7 are regarded as radicals and our international president, Donald Henderson and other officers of our union are looked upon as "super-radicals."

I wish to take this occasion to explain the function o fpeople who are called "radicals" in the development of society and of civilization.

They are the pioneers of progress. They are individuals who are not afraid to take chances. They are constantly looking for new ways of doing things, blazing new trails to new goals, new values, new horizons.

Jesus Christ was a radical, a rebel. So were Buddha of India, Cromwell of England, Rizal of the Philippines, Voltaire of France and the forefathers of this country.

The radicals in the social sciences are paralleled by the experimental scientists in the field of physical science. The radicals make many mistakes, meet many failures. But it is better to make many mistakes and accomplish something than it is to do nothing and make no mistakes.

Real life is measured not in terms of years but in terms of activity, of accomplishments performed during a certain lifetime. It is better to live one day as a lion than a hundred years as a rabbit.

The FTA has for its President Donald Henderson, who is a rare combination of analyst, orator and statesman in the field of labor.

In electing him, it does not necessarily mean we agree with everything he does. It does not necessarily mean that we subscribe to any school of thought to which he may subscribe.

It means that we believe in his integrity and ability and that we uphold the democratic right of the minority to voice their opinions.

In this connection it may be pertinent to quote the words of Voltaire: "I disagree with everything you say but I will defend unto death your right to say it."

194 Fight Gag Laws

FTA 194 is fighting hard in the Illinois state legislature against a series of "thought control" bills even more harsh in their terms than last year's federal Mundt-Nixon bill.

"Under the guise of outlawing 'communism' and 'communist fronts' these bills (Broyles bills) could imprison from one to five years any union members or progressive minded person who fights for:

Higher wages; repeal of Taft-Hartley; low-cost housing; civil rights; peace—OR ANYTHING ELSE THAT IS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE PEOPLE," the "Voice" says.

All members are urgently requested to write, wire their state Senators and Representatives against the Broyles bills.

Campbells Robs 3600

Campbell Soup expects to save quite a bit of money by its layoff of some 600 people in Chicago, Local 194 points out in the "Voice."

"Vacation pay for next summer is calculated as 4 percent of all earnings during the period April 31, 1948 to May 1, 1949," the Voice says.

Most of the laid-off workers have been working for the company since before last April and therefore have already EARNED some 34 weeks of vacation pay.

The union calculates that if the average earnings of these 600 laid off workers were only $40 a week, at four percent for 34 weeks these workers have actually earned some $32,640.00 in vacation pay.

"Does the company intend to deprive these workers of their rightful vacation earnings and pocket the money itself?"

Delegates from Region 1 at their table. From left: Mary Chainko, Local 56; Lacy Aiello, president, Local 56; Charles Munz president, Local 186; George Ardelean, business manager, Local 186; Benjamin Butler, chief steward, Local 80; Mary Godrey, president, Local 105; Herbert Kling, president Local 80, Regional Director and member of the International Executive Board.

Beat Little T-H Law In Penna.

An attempt to push a bill barring transportation strikes through the Pennsylvania legislature bogged down here March 3 following all-out labor pressure against it.

The measure, which was introduced when the Philadelphia transit strike was in progress, was recommitted by a 43 to 7 vote in the Senate. This parliamentary maneuver effectively bars immediate consideration. The bill had been described by labor opponents as a "miniature Taft-Hartley act."

Officers Elected

All national officers were re-elected unanimously. They were:

Donald Henderson, president; **Armando Valdes**, secretary-treasurer; **John Tisa**, director of organization; **Lewis C. Bentzley. Robert Lathan, Armando Ramirez**, vice-presidents.

Nine members of the International Executive Board were elected:

Duke Cunningham, Local 78; **John Mack Dyson**, Local 19; **John Gallacher**, Local 194; **Paul Gardner**, Local 194; **Herbert Kling**, Local 80; **Ernest Mangoang**, Local 7; **Mervin Myers**, Local 110; **Moranda Smith**, Local 22 and **R. H. Smith**, Local 75.

Three trustees were elected: **John Mack Dyson; John Gallacher** and **Herbert Kling.**

Sally Sullivan, president of FTA Local 300, sits with Sister Madeline Lawson at their table during the 7th FTA Convention.

As all proper conventions do, FTA's 7th had a banquet—a portion of which is shown here. The delegates look happy because they knew there were going to be no speeches.

Asparagus Truce Seen

Meeting as FTA News went to press, negotiators for FTA Local 7 in California were hopeful of an early settlement to the year long strike in the asparagus fields around Stockton.

The strike began last year and was continued in effect after the growers had ploughed under their 1948 crop rather than bargain collectively with the union.

Acocrding to FTA Regional Director Jack Montgomery, the growers have indicated they are ready to make an offer on wages, are willing to put the houses for the field workers in decent shape, and are ready and willing to deal with the unions as such.

Last year, the growers refused any concessions whatever. Mexican field workers brought in with the idea of breaking the strike are joining FTA in large numbers as soon as they learn fact

Speedup Seen As Layoff Cause; Safeguards Listed

(Speedup and incentive systems are one of the main causes of the present widespread layoffs, since they force workers to "produce themselves out of their jobs." The FTA Convention resolution on this subject, unanimously passed after lengthy floor discussion, follows.)

Total production of goods and services in the year 1948 exceeded any other peacetime year in history, amounting to $253 billions. President Truman in his state of the union message (Jan. 5, 1949) said:

"Since the boom year of 1929, while our population has increased by only 20 per cent, our agricultural production has increased by 75 per cent. We are turning out far more goods and more wealth per worker than we have ever done before."

One of the basic causes of this tremendous increase in production has been the speed-up of the average factory worker. Statistics show that the index of production per man-hour is 33 per cent greater than in 1938, and 60 per cent greater than in 1929.

This speed-up means loss of health, life and limb to workers. At the present time over two million workers are injured each year while on the job. Approximately 18,000 are killed and about 100,000 are maimed for life. This amounts to more in one year than all the casualties of Americans in five years of World War II, which amounted to 1,135,933 according to the War Department.

CAUSE OF LAYOFFS

One of the reasons for layoffs now taking place in a number of industries, and especially in the Campbell Soup plants in Camden, N. J. and in Chicago, Illinois is this same speedup whereby the companies can get out the same amount of production with fewer workers.

Incentive systems, such as the Bedeaux system and others are one of the main methods by which companies speed up workers, luring them on to ever-increasing speed by the hope of increased earnings.

Such speedup is most harmful to the workers, causing layoffs, accidents, injuries to health, actual loss of earnings through the settings of ever higher standards of performance, and is harmful also to the unity and strength of the union, inasmuch as workers are incited to compete with each other for premium.

Therefore the 7th FTA Convention goes on record for the following program:

FTA PROGRAM

In all plants where incentive systems exist we should make every effort to incorporate safeguards against the use of the incentive system to cut wages, such as the following clauses:

1. Values and standards shall be set so that the average normal operator shall earn not less than 33 per cent above the base rate.

2. The union shall have the right to bargain collectively concerning all matters pertaining to time studies and labor standards.

3. No retiming of jobs unless there has been a substantial change in method and at least 25 per cent of the operation has changed. Only that part of the job which has been substantially changed may be retimed.

4. All time worked by incentive workers involving downtime, experimental jobs and short runs to be paid for at the worker's average earnings on incentive work.

We direct the national office of FTA to make a study of incentive systems, with a view to helping those locals which have such systems to better fight against them, and also to educate the workers as to the evils of such systems.

We further go on record in opposition to incentive systems as such, and in opposition to introducing such systems in plants which do not now have them. Moreover, on a long term basis, FTA will work for the elimination of such incentive systems through education of the workers as to their harmful effects, and **through raising the basic wage level to provide an adequate standard of living without the necessity of life-shortening speedup in order to provide sufficient earnings.**

Warning Note

Delegates List Steps To Fight Growing Depression

Signs of a growing depression are already plain in the U. S. economic picture, the 7th FTA Convention delegates found in the increasing layoffs, speedup and accompanying cuts in real wages.

The growth of monopoly in the food and tobacco industries is adding to this approaching crisis, the delegates agreed in working out plans to combat cuts in workers' purchasing power.

Huge increases in profits have brought this purchasing power down below the levels of 1946, while unemployment adds to the workers' difficulties in retaining even a minimum standard of living.

To meet these problems, the 7th Convention outlined an 11-point program of union and legislative steps to head off an economic crash.

Text of this program, passed in a major resolution, is given below:

1. Substantial wage increases which as a minimum will make good the losses in real wages since 1946.

2. A $1.00 an hour minimum wage in all industries, covering all workers including agricultural workers and without exemptions from payment of premium pay for work over 40 hours a week or eight hours a day.

3. Increases in unemployment compensation to provide an adequate living standard during unemployment and the extension of such compensation and other social security benefits to all workers including seasonal and agricultural workers.

END SPEEDUP

4 An end to speedup systems through collective bargaining. Where such systems exist, the union should have an equal voice with management on such matters as job classifications, production standards and job rates.

5 The institution of the 30-hour week with no reduction in weekly take-home pay.

6. Employer financed pensions to guarantee decent living standards to workers on retirement. Increases in Federal old age benefits to bring the minimum payments at 60 yeasr of age to $100.00 a month.

SEVERANCE PAY

7. Severance pay for all workers laid off or permanently discharged; such pay to run at the rate of two weeks for every year of service.

8. Federal, state and local public works programs to provide jobs at full union wages for unemployed workers and to provide needed housing, hospitals and other community improvements.

9. A tax program to provide funds for the above from the excess profits of the corporations and excess income of the rich. ...

10. Guaranteed annual wages for year-round workers and guaranteed minimum earnings for seasonal workers.

11. Federal operation of shutdown plants or industries to guarantee full production and to assure workers their jobs at union wages.

Mourn Elsie Smith

Elsie Smith, former FTA organizer and Negro people's leader, died suddenly in Washington recently.

Sister Smith had been an organizer for FTA on the eastern shore of Maryland, where she had taken a leading part in the FTA drive to organize unorganized cannery workers at the Phillips Canning Co.

She had also played a prominent role in FTA organizing drives among food processing workers inC alifornia, Pennsylvania and among tobacco workers in the South.

In recent months Sister Smith had been Washington, D. C. chairman of the Communist Party.

Report To FTA News

By Larry Larsen

In spite of the Taft-Hartley slave labor act, vicious red-baiting and attempted raids upon our union, FTA locals in Region 5 have held the line and made gains.

Local 150, Nashville, Tennessee, has completed negotiations with the U. S. Tobacco Company and the Ralston Purina Company. One of the best contracts in the feed industry was negotiated with Ralston Purina. The new contract calls for seven cents across the board, additional vacation and a clause that gives the union the right to reopen the contract for a union shop if the Taft-Hartley act is repealed. The minimum in this local is 92c per hour with a three to five cent shift differential for night workers.

Local 75, Houston, Texas, in certain of its plants, received increases from eight cents up to 13 cents an hour and paid vacations, while in another a 10 cent raise across the board and a Christmas bonus were negotiated; in its remaining plants increases ranging from five cents up to 17 cents an hour with major boosts in holidays and vacation pay were received. A 100 per cent consolidation job has been done in the local over the past 12-month period.

The local took a very active part in the Progressive Party campaign and has been fighting against the Mundt-Nixon Bill, for repeal of the poll tax and for civil liberties. This is one of the most active Locals in our region. Locals 75 and 34 having amalgamated will strengthen the local's position in future fights.

Local 172, San Antonio, Texas negotiated wage increases from 10 cents up to 19 cents an hour across the board with major improvement in all contracts.

Local 309, New Orleans, Louisiana negotiated for seven cents and eight cents across the board with other improvements in contracts. A 97 cent minimum has been established in this local.

Local 98, Little Rock, Arkansas negotiated wage increases ranging from eight cents to 14 cents an hour.

Local 180, Jackson, Mississippi in one of its plants negotiated for a nine cent an hour across the board increase and other improvements in contract. This local has consolidated 100 per cent.

Local 102, Corinth, Mississippi negotiated a 12 cent across the board increase, bonus, improved vacation, seniority and paid holidays.

Local 19, Memphis, Tennessee has renegotiated 24 out of 26 contracts with general wage increases ranging from five cents to 11 cents an hour plus improved vacation, holidays and other benefits. From June to December this local consolidated its membership from 935 to 1500 members at the present time.

This local took an outstanding part in the last election and is now working full time on such matters as repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act, civil rights program, housing and national health program. It is taking an active part in the elimination of the poll tax.

The main task before us now is to see to it that the mandate that the people gave the Democratic party in the last election will be fulfilled; to build a real strong Progressive party for the coming period, to build and strengthen our union, to organize the unorganized and to fight for a real people's peace.

Federal Judge Henry Schweinhaut refused to delay the trial of Rep. J. Parnell Thomas (R., N. J.), on charges of having padded his congressional payroll and taken kickback payments from his office staff. Thomas' trial opens March 7.

Seek $1 Minimum Wage Coverage For Workers

(Following reports of an attempted sellout on the Truman administration's wage hour amendment program, the FTA 7th Convention unanimously resolved to increase pressure for its four point wage hour program given below).

1. Raise the minimum wage to $1.00 per hour for all workers, eliminating once and for all the overtime and minimum wage exemptions affecting workers processing agricultural commodities. Specifically we demand that the following sections of the Fair Labor Standards Act be eliminated:

(a) Section 13 (a) (10) "area of production" exemption from both minimum wage and over-time exemptions.

(b) Section 7 (c) Complete over-time exemptions affecting industries processing agricultural commodities in some cases on a year round basis and in others for 14 weeks per year.

(c) Section 7 (b) (3) Which grants exemption up to 56 hours a week for 14 weeks to tobacco processing workers and also, on top of Section 7 (c) grants this same exemption to the canning and fresh fruit and veegtable industries.

2. Provide minimum wage and over-time coverage for agricultural workers employed in large-scale big business commercial agriculture.

3. We also call for repeal of the so-called portal-to-portal amendments to the wage hour law which retroactively deny workers full payment for the time they are employed.

4. Provide the Wage Hour Administration with sufficient funds to ensure full employment of the law against chiselling employers.

Elimination of inequalities and economic discrimination between the socalled "gold" and "silver" workers in the Canal Zone was urged by the CIO Latin American Affairs Committee.

The general executive board of the United Rubber Workers (CIO) made wage increases the No. 1 demand in upcoming negotiations with companies employing the union's 186,000 members. Putting welfare benefits in a secondary position, the board went on record for a 25c hourly wage boost.

Best Wishes for a Successful Convention

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Greetings

For World Peace

A FRIEND

CENTRAL JERSEY FARMERS' CO-OP ASSOCIATION

HIGHTSTOWN, NEW JERSEY

Greetings from

BLOCK BROS. TOBACCO CO.

Demonstrators protesting frame-up of six Negro workers gather around Trenton, N. J., jail where the six are held in death house for a murder they did not commit. Case threatens to become a modern "Scottsboro case."

New Fascist Gags Planned

Anyone who thought the un-American Committee acquired a new look after the November elections had better take another guess—it hasn't.

Reports from Washington say the committee is hatching an even more fascist-minded bill than that offered by Mundt and Nixon last year. Tipoff was given by un-American Chairman John S. Wood, (D. Ga.) who told reporters: "We're not just going to reconsider the Mundt-Nixon bill. What we need is something stronger."

The Mundt-Nixon bill was so outrageous an invasion of all civil rights that millions of Americans protested loudly enough to stop it in its tracks in the 80th Congress.

Now the same job will have to be done again, this time with the Truman Democrats in complete control of Congress.

FTA Asks Fight For Civil Rights Program

While the Truman civil rights program is being mired down in a filibuster—winked at by administration leaders—FTA has urged its members to put up a fight for their rights as workers and as Americans.

The program was worked out at the 7th FTA convention, and contains nine main points, listed below:

1. Repeal of the Taft-Hartley law and restoration of the Wagner act.

2. Issue and enforce an order ending segregation in the armed forces and all other government institutions.

3. Vigorously enforce existing Federal civil rights laws against lynching and all other crimes against the rights of the people.

4. Enact and provide for the enforcement of Federal laws against lynching, against job discrimination and for the repeal of the poll tax.

5. Rescind the so-called "loyalty" order, drop all charges against and reinstate all Federal employes affected by it.

6. Set aside the order of the Atomic Energy Commission that seeks to rob members of the United Electrical Workers union of their contract rights.

7. Put an end to deportation of labor leaders and minority political leaders by the FBI and the Immigration Service.

8. Halt the trial of the 12 officials of the Communist Party as an attempt to deny Americans the right to form and join political parties of their own choice, and set about reforming the Grand Jury system so that it shall become less a hand-picked jury of the wealthy and more a jury of the people.

9. Defeat all attempts in Congress to outlaw or regiment the members of political parties organized for lawful ends.

In order fully to carry out this program, we make the same demands of the several state, county and municipal governments.

Finally, in order to strengthen our own organization and to make our own voice still stronger in the cause of freedom, we urge all labor unions to avoid any act or deed within their ranks that discriminates against any worker because of race, creed, color national origin or political belief.

We pledge renewed allegiance to our own FTA Constitution, which declares that our union "unites all workers in our industries on an industrial and democratic basis, regardless of age, sex, nationality, race, creed, color or political and religious beliefs."

How Your Dues Are Spent— Organizing The Unorganized

By Armando Valdes, Secretary-Treasurer, FTA

Among the many important decisions of the 7th FTA Convention were two that are very closely linked together. One is the decision to carry on an organizing drive in order to strengthen the union and better protect the well-being of every FTA member and the other is the increase of 10 cents in the per capita tax.

This organizational program which was approved unanimously at the convention is a correct one and it is of the utmost importance to all FTA members. We feel that it will result in achieving the main objective the organization of the unorganized.

However, organizational programs and plans to be given life must be fed with income, must be implemented with finances. The convention saw to it that this program will be properly implemented by voting to increase the per capita tax from 75 to 85 cents per member for a period of two years. It was also decided that the additional 10 cents be set aside in a separate fund to be known as "New Organizing Fund" to be used only for the purpose of organizing new plants. Thus the total amount of the increase will be utilized for new organizing.

Because CIO per capita was increased from five cents to eight cents per member as of November, 1948, additional income was needed.

To take care of this added increased expense without using any of the revenue due to the ten cent increase in per capita your officers proposed to the Executive Board that the wages of everyone on the FTA payroll, excluding the office help, be reduced by ten per cent. This reduction in salaries applies to everyone on the payroll from the President down to all the organizers earning more than $250. per month. The Board unanimously approved the reduction in wages effective as of Mar. 1, 1949. This reduction will result in the saving of approximately $800. per month.

I know that it is always of interest to all the members of an organization and particularly a labor union to know how dues monies are spent.

BREAKDOWN

Following is a breakdown in terms of cents of how your 85 cents per capita money is spent:

CIO per capita tax	**.08**
Reserve Fund	**.05**
New organizing Fund	**.10**
General office expenses	**.12**
Research and education	**.02**
Press and publicity	**.04**
Legislative	**.01½**
Field servicing	**.32½**
Regions	**.10**
Total	**.85**

No doubt you want to know what is paid out of each one of the above funds. Let me explain it in a few words:

The eight cents to CIO is the amount of per capita that we have to pay in order to be part of CIO.

The five cents that goes into the Reserve Fund is a constitutional provision, and it is placed in a separate bank account. This money can only be used with the consent of the International Executive Board and for specific purposes only.

ONLY FOR ORGANIZING

The ten cents "New Organizing Fund" is also a constitutional provision and can only be used for new organizing. This money cannot be used for any other purposes unless it is with the consent of the International Executive Board.

The twelve general office expenses pays salaries and expenses of the general president, the general secretary-treasurer, and the office staff, also the rent and all of the expenses of the national office.

The two cents that goes to Research and Education pays all of the salaries and expenses of that department.

The four cents that goes to Press and Publicity pay the salary and expenses of the editor of FTA News and the cost and expenses of printing, handling and mailing of FTA News.

The one an one-half cents that goes to Legislative Department pays the salary and expenses of legislative representative in Washington and also the expenses of the Washington office.

The 32½ cents that goes to field administration pays the salaries and expenses of the organizationtl director, international vice-presidents, regional directors and international representatives. This is the staff that services the locals out in the field.

The ten cents to regions is to pay the expenses of maintaining the regional offices.

ANALYSIS OF 85c

If you care to analyze the way your per capita money is spent you will find that 52½ cents out of each 85 cents or 62 per cent is spent out in the field for organizing and servicing the ocas; that 13 cents or 15 per cent is spent for CIO per capita and reserve fund and only 19½ or 23 per cent is spent for administration including all of the departments.

I feel that FTA can feel proud of the fact that the bulk of its income is utilized for the primary purpose for which members pay their dues—that is, the organization of the unorganized and the servicing of the existing locals.

With a clear understanding of the perspectives and aims of FTA and with the continued cooperation of all FTA locals we will go forward in organizing the unorganized and strengthening the locals so as to improve the living and working conditions of all FTA members.

Secretary-Treasurer Armando Valdes, looking pensive. Valdes was elected Secretary-Treasurer for his first full term at the 7th Convention in Santa Cruz, California.

160 Wins Contract

Continued from Page 1

off, work week, leaves of absence, overtime premiums, and many others.

The negotiating committee was Al Green, International Rep. Clyde C. Congleton, president, Juanita Clark, Chief Steward, Betty Sirabry, Ronald Cox and Charlena Curtis, and Ruth Alcorn, Financial Secretary.

A wage policy committee contributed greatly in mapping strategy and unifying the rank and file behind the committee to make this new contract possible. A very careful plan was laid out early last year and carried out to the last detail.

American manufacturing industries in December saw the highest rate of layoffs and the lowest rate of hiring of any month since the end of the war, figures released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics showed.

'Unity, Action, Amalgamation' Stressed At FTA Convention

(A program looking to "labor unity, united action and amalgamation" wherever the interests of the workers in FTA and allied jurisdictions call for it was urged on the seventh FTA Convention in a special resolution carried by the International Executive Board. Text of the resolution follows):

The members of FTA-CIO have always stood for the unity of all workers as the only way of meeting the attacks of the bosses on our living and working conditions.

We stand for the closest possible cooperation within the CIO and all other labor organizations on economic and social issus designed to improve the lot of our people.

Such unity is particularly needed now in order that the workers shall secure the legislative benefits promised them in the 1948 elections. These promises will be made good only to the extent that the people carry on a united campaign for them.

United struggle is equally necessary in our daily dealings with the employers. The old employer principle of divide and conquer is still practiced in every industry.

Our union also believes that workers must unite on a world-wide scale as well as within our own country. Such unity brings gains to the workers of all countries, including our own, because it strengthens the workers in face of the common enemy.

The workers in the food, tobacco and fiber processing industries are especially ready for united action since they are the lowest paid and most exploited of all industrial workers in the U. S. The objective of FTA-CIO in its 13 years of existence has been to bring them together to face the huge trusts that dominate these fields.

Now therefore, the seventh Convention of FTA-CIO goes on record reaffirming our policy of united action within CIO and all other labor organizations on issues that concern the living and working conditions of workers.

We hereby instruct the International Executive Board of FTA-CIIO to explore and act upon all possibilities of united action, up to and including organic unity with unions in the industries covered by and related to the jurisdiction of FTA-CIO.

Twenty million additional working people, including farm laborers and domestic help, will come under old age benefits, and an extensive home relief program costing the government $24 million in its first year will protect "all needy persons" from utter want if bills before the House Ways and Means committee become law.

Members of Local 647 cheer the settlement of the seven weeks strike at the De Nobili Cigar Co. in New York. Increase won averaged at 13 cents an hour, with protection against layoffs also in the pact.

FTA Backs World Labor Unity; Hits WFTU Split

(The 7th FTA Convention took a strong stand on the issue of world labor unity, pointing out that the World Federation of Trade Unions has helped workers of all nations and condemning the efforts of CIO Secretary-Treasurer James B. Carey to destroy it. Text of the resolution follows.)

The World Federation of Trade Unions was set up by the CIO, the British Trades Union Congress and the Soviet Council of Trade Unions in 1945 to unite labor against fascism and reaction and to promote the welfare of workers throughout the world.

The WFTU was hailed by the workers and was heartily endorsed and supported by FTA, which had long urged the creation of such an organization based on the equality and democratic rights of all affiliated unions.

The WFTU has fully proved its value in mobilizing world labor solidarity. The WFTU rallied the waterfront workers of Europe and Asia in support of the U.S. maritime strike, thereby making victory possible against threats of armed strikebreaking by the U.S. government.

It has helped workers in fascist countries such as Spain and Greece and has prevented the execution of several trade unionists in those countries. The WFTU has helped the people of colonial and semi-colonial areas in Africa and Asia in their fight for independence.

The WFTU has upheld the right of workers in all countries to organize and bargain collectively through unions of their own choice. It has helpe dworkers in formerly fascist countries to rebuild their unions. It has consistently fought against the rebirth of German militarism and the international cartels that brought about World War II. It has repeatedly demanded a voice for the workers in the United Nations and everywhere been the champion of peace and human welfare.

FTA ENDORSED

The FTA and the national CIO have endorsed the WFTU in repeated convention actions since it was founded four years ago. No action authorizing the withdrawal of the CIO from the WFTU has ever been presented to or endorsed by a CIO convention.

Despite this, national CIO Secretary-Treasurer James B. Carey last month announced the withdrawal of the CIO from the WFTU without consultation or approval by CIO affiliated unions.

This action was taken on the flimsy ground that WFTU has not endorsed the Marshall Plan, despite the fact that its constitution provides for full autonomy of national trade union centers on all such questions, and therefore the WFTU could not commit its member unions to support or rejection of the Marshall or any other plan.

This withdrawal from the WFTU is a real setback to the world working class.

By withdrawing from the World Federation, the officers of the national CIO are not only splitting labor unity but also are isolating the members of the CIO from the world labor movement and are threatening the gains made through such world solidarity.

Therefore the 7th Convention of FTA goes on record condemning the action of CIO Secretary Carey in withdrawing from the World Federation of Trade Unions.

We urge the reaffiliation of the national CIO to the WFTU and we pledge the continued support of our union to it as the strongest guarantee of international workingclass solidarity against all exploiters and oppressors.

Urge End To 'Cold War'; Use Arms $ For People

(The 'cold war' foreign policy of the U.S. State Dept. now costs every man, woman and child in the U.S. $190 a year, slashes human welfare and leads directly to shooting war, the 7th FTA Convention said in a unanimous resolution asking for a return to "one world" policies of peaceful cooperation. Text of the resolution follows in full.)

The present foreign policy of the U.S. Government has produced a state of cold war which threatens the welfare and living standards of workers in this country and all other nations.

The cold war foreign policy has raised the cost of past, present and future wars to 76 per cent of the entire U.S. budget, while only six per cent is allocated for social services, including housing, health, education, medical care and the like.

The cost of the cold war foreign policy amounts to $190 a year for every man, woman and child in America, and has helped keep the cost of living high for all workers and consumers.

Under the Marshall Plan, which was originally advertised as a humanitarian measure to help war-devastated peoples, French miners, Greek workers, Chinese workers and farmers, Indonesians and others, have been shot down for resisting employers and fascist governments in their own countries, with their oppressors using American money and supplies to carry on war against them.

The Marshall Plan has not helped the war-devastated areas to restore production even to prewar levels, in spite of vast sums spent and huge quantities of arms and supplies sent abroad at the cost to the American taxpayer.

At the same time, the cold war policies carried out by the U.S. State Department and the Army have resulted in strengthening the German and Japanese trusts and cartels that brought on World War II, and are now preparing for World War III.

SPLITS WORLD LABOR

The cold war policy has been used as an instrument for splitting the unity of workers in all countries, with U.S. advisers working to weaken our brother unions abroad and to disrupt the World Federation of Trade Unions on orders of the State Department.

Even normal trade with foreign countries has been cut off as the result of the cold war policy, thereby bringing serious hardship to American workers and resulting in widespread unemployment.

No country, not even the richest in the world, can go on paying 76 per cent of its income for war and at the same time maintain or improve living standards at home. Long needed benefits are now being delayed or whittled down on the excuse that preparation for war must have priority.

KEY TO PEACE

The two most powerful countries in the world, the United States and the Soviet Union, are the key to world peace. Premier Joseph Stalin of the Soviet Union has offered to meet with President Truman in a conference to reconcile the difference sthat now divide the two countries.

Therefore, the 7th Convention of FTA goes on record calling for an end to the present cold war foreign policy and asking President Truman to meet with Premier Stalin at the earliest possible date.

We urge that the huge sums of money now being spent for war purposes be used instead for the benefit of the people of America through housing, health, education and social security programs, and through needed wage increases to the workers.

We urge a return to the policies of one world laid down by Franklin D. Roosevelt and set forth in the charter of the United Nations.

We urge this program in the conviction that its adoption will lead to the peaceful development of all countries and the improvement of the living standards of all working people in our own and other countries.

In serving wage boost demands on the New Jersey Bell phone company, the Communications Workers of America (unaffiliated) will launch a 1949 wage drive. The union represents 230,000 workers.

For the Nation's Health

Sickness Costs Workers Billions; Planning, Federal Aid Seen Needed

By Hon Claude A. Pepper
U. S. Senator from Florida

Sickness—mostly preventable—costs the workers of the U. S. nearly eight billion dollars a year. More than seven million people in the U. S. are sick on any given day. Yet only four out of 100 have comprehensive medical care through insurance or other pre-payment plans.

These grim facts, plus a Federal and state program to deal with them, are brought out in this article written exclusively for FTA News by the Hon. Claude A. Pepper, U. S. Senator from Florida.

We all know that one of the greatest problems of our working men and women is the cost of medical care and the staggering burden resulting from sickness. Two out of every three persons in this country need some financial help to meet the cost of serious illness.

In 1939, the American Medical Association showed that families with incomes under $3,000 a year required some financial assistance to meet the expense of serious illness.

The cost of living since 1939 has risen about 70 per cent. This rise means that families with incomes under $5,000 in 1948 would be in the same position today with respect to medical care costs as families with incomes under $3,000 were in 1939.

$8 BILLION LOST

American working men and women lose as much as eight billion dollars a year, half in medical costs and half in loss of wages because of sickness and premature death. The American people in 1947 spent the staggering amount of five and a half billion dollars or about 2½ per cent of our national income for medical care, insurance, and supplies.

The Senate Subcommittee on Wartime Health and Education, of which I was chairman, in several of its reports revealed the gravity of the nation's health problems. On the basis of selective service experience ,at least 40 per cent of our men of military age, between eight and nine million men, are physically or mentally unfit for military duty. On any single day in the year, at least seven million people in the United States suffer some illness.

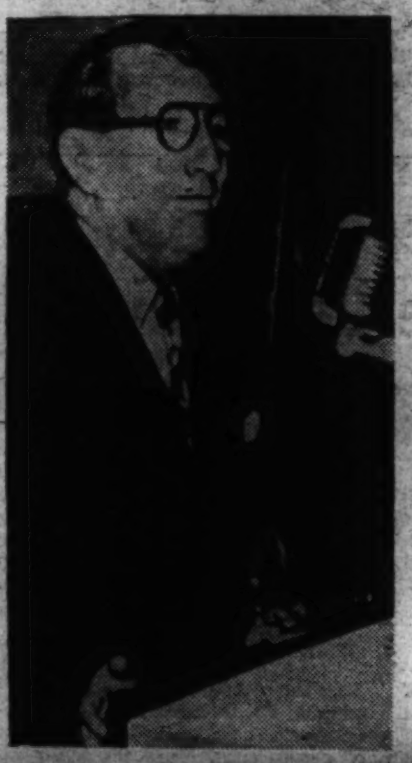
Our health services and facilities are wholly inadequate to cope with the problem.

Forty million people live in communities lacking full-time public health services. Fifteen million Americans live in 40 per cent of the nation's counties with no recognized general hospital and only 11 per cent of the counties have hospitals which meet the recognized standard of 4.5 hospital beds per 1,000 population. The seriousness of the problem is also reflected in the great shortages of doctors, dentists, and other trained health personnel. Many of the counties in the country have no active dollar at all, and our shortage of nurses is well over 40,000.

Very few of our American working people can afford to pay the high cost of good medical care. It is estimated that less than four per cent of our population thus far has been able to purchase comprehensive medical care through some form of insurance or other prepayment plan. Most American families cannot afford to pay for it out of current income or savings.

SAVINGS WIPED OUT

We also know that people with lower incomes have more sickness and need more medical care. Yet they receive less than those in the upper income groups. Wage losses and medical costs arising out of sickness have very oftaen wiped out a family's savings and driven it into debt regardless of the level of income. Many Americans will not call a doctor until they are seriously ill and many others are reluctant to accept medical attention on a charity basis.



PEPPER

It is obvious that private and local resources can no longer provide good health care for the average citizen and his family. It has become a national problem which requires immediate action by the Congress.

President Roosevelt, many years ago, recognized the need for a national health program and strongly urged Congress to pass such legislation. President Truman has, on several occasion, sent special messages to Congress on the same subject. The Democratic Party in its platform called for the establishing of a national health insurance and expansion of our public health services.

None of us in this country are in favor of socialized medicine. We want our present program of health care to remain and to expand as part of our system of free enterprise. The role of the federal, state and local governments should be to encourage and develop this objective. To that end, the Democratic Party and the 81st Congress will try to develop a comprehensive health program in order that every American man, woman, and child can receive the full benefit, knowledge, and skill of our fine medical, dental, and nursing professions.

I have joined with a number of the Senators in sponsoring a national health insurance and public health act. Under this bill practically every person in the United States and his or her dependents will be able to receive preventive care to keep them from getting sick unnecessarily, diagnostic care to fight what is wrong when they are sick, and curative care to cure them after they are sick.

LOW FEES

For these services, each individual will pay 1½ per cent of his earnings up to $3,600 a year and his employer will contribute a like amount. If a person is self-employed, he would pay three per cent on his earnings up to $3,600 a year. An individual can choose his own doctor, hospital, group clinic, specialist, dentist, or nurse among all the practitioners and institutions in the local community that agrees to serve under the act. Doctors and other practitioners will be free to accept or reject patients just as they do now. A doctor need not serve under the act if he does not wish to and all his medical records will be held confidential.

for a better

Voluntary health insurance plans can continue to provide citizens with services and be reimbursed from the national health insurance fund. The program will be administered by state and local officials through local committees and officers composed of doctors and other practitioners and laymen in the local areas where the services are rendered and received. In this democratic way, everybody will be able to get good medical care without worry about expense.

TRAINING NEEDED

We hope to provide additional hospitals and more hospital beds; to establish a system of scholarships and loans for deserving men and women to be trained as doctors, dentists, and nurses, and in related fields; to establish and maintain more medical, dental, and nursing schools; to expand our local public health services particularly in the rural areas for the enlargement of research so that we can control and conquer heart, cancer, polimyelitis, dental, mental, arthritis, epilepsy, and other serious illnesses; and, for, expansion of our aid to the physically handicapped in the United States.

Health affects every walk of life in America. It is a national problem which cannot be solved without the help of the federal government and the Congress must deal with it appropriately if it is to have a healthy and happy body of citizens. The 81st Congress, I am sure, will progress step by step through the establishment of a national health insurance program so that every American can get good hospital, dental, nursing, and clinical care based upon the typical American principle of insurance and not upon charity.

Residents of this atomic city—which is virtually a 100% union town—are taking a new interest in politics now that they have won the right to vote. Congress recently ceded jurisdiction over Los Alamos to the state of New Mexico.

The Life Of Our Union

By Armando Valdes
Secretary-Treasurer

(Excerpts from the Secretary-Treasurer's section of the General Officers Report to the 7th FTA Convention.)

In submitting this financial report to the 7th Constitutional Convention of the FTA, your Secretary-Treasurer would like to bring to the attention of the delegates a few points reflected in the report.

The records show that organized labor has gone through the toughest two years of its existence—two years of vicious and constant attacks by the reactionary employers and their stooges in government. Two years of secessionist movements and raiding fomented and carried out by the employers' stooges within labor's own ranks and under the guise of fighting communism have done precisely what the employers wanted when they had the Taft-Hartley law enacted, that is, a serious weakening of the labor movement, if not its destruction.

The result has been that instead of continuing the organization of the unorganized, unions have been forced to use all of their resources to defend the best interest of the workers already organized. This attack has been aimed primarily at the real fighting and progressive unions but also at organized labor in general.

FTA MAIN TARGET

Being one of the most progressive and fighting unions, FTA could not possibly escape such attack, leaving us no alternative but to fight with all of our resources to defend the best interest of our members, and fight we did. As you can see by our president's report we fared pretty well.

We have been successful in winning every major battle so far, but this has meant using all of our resources to defend what we had and therefore we have been forced, like the rest of the labor movement, to largely abandon the organization of the unorganized. The result has been that our membership instead of growing has dropped.

Let me point out that the largest portion of this loss has been due to the Taft-Hartley law, and the way employers have taken advantage of it to refuse to bargain with the union, such as the case of Local 22 and the R. J. Reynolds Co., and the loss of the union shop because of the law. Approximately 2,000 dues paying members were lost due to raiding by other unions and approximately 1,000 more because of plants closing down.

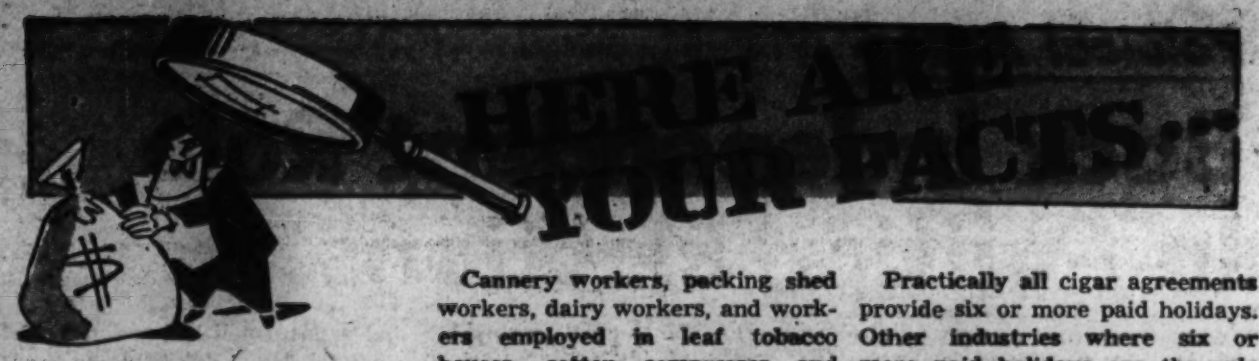
At that time your officers met and reviewed the whole question of finances. After a thorough study of the situation we arrived at one very basic decision and that is that no matter what, we had to operate on our real income. We realized, of course, that to do this meant further curtailing of expenses in the operation of all the departments of the international union, and further curtailment of the organizers staff. In other words it meant further retrenchment.

LIFE OF THE UNION

The question to be decided at this convention is whether we retrench further, or go forward and expand by organizing the unorganized. Further retrenchment can mean certain death. New organization can mean the very life of the union. No one can deny that unless we organize the unorganized plants of the companies we now hold contracts with, it can spell hardship and worse conditions for our members.

It is becoming harder and harder for our members to obtain wage increases and better working conditions from employers because in numerous cases the companies with which we have contracts have other plants that are not organized. To name a few—Libby, McNeil & Libby, Consolidated Cigar Company, California Packing Corporation, General Cigar Company and Buckeye Cottonseed Oil Company.

In other cases we are confronted with the fact that the industries in which we have contracts are not organized and the bosses claim that it is impossible for them to compete with these open shops. It is a well-known fact that unless we organize the unorganized our own Union conditions are in danger. You have heard reports and recommendations on organizing the unorganized by your General President and your Organizational Director. I feel that they are correct, but programs and plans to be given life must be fed with income.



Contract Gains

By Joseph Califf
Research & Education Director

Membership in FTA continues to pay big dollars-and-cents dividends to workers in the food, tobacco and fiber processing industries.

Despite the Taft-Hartley Act, higher wages, better working conditions, and greater job security have been won in contracts negotiated by our union during the past two years.

Facts and figures to prove this can be found in the Officers Reports submitted to the 7th FTA Convention at Santa Cruz, California this month.

MINIMUM WAGES

Most FTA workers have gotten good-sized wage increases since the last convention of the union two years ago. This is shown by a big rise in the minimum wage scales in our plants.

At the time of the last convention, plants employing half of all the workers covered by FTA contracts had minimum wages of 75 cents an hour or less. Today, two out of every three FTA workers work in plants where the lowest rate paid is 75 cents an hour or more.

Nearly half of our members now are covered by contracts calling for a minimum wage of $1.00 an hour and over. Yet just two years ago less than one-tenth of FTA workers worked for companies paying $1.00 or more an hour minimum.

Back in 1944, we had a minimum wage of 65c an hour or more for only 40 per cent of our members. Today 86 per cent of our members are protected by contracts which set a minimum wage of 65 cents an hour and higher.

FTA industries where we have won the highest wage scales are fresh fruit and vegetable packing, fish canning, fruit and vegetable canning, grain processing, dairy products, and horticulture.

OVERTIME PAY

The Wage-Hour Act requires most companies to pay time and one-half wages to their workers for all time worked over 40 hours a week. However, because of special exemptions in the law, more than two-thirds of the workers in FTA plants are denied the legal right to this premium pay for overtime.

Cannery workers, packing shed workers, dairy workers, and workers employed in leaf tobacco houses, cotton compresses, and cottonseed oil mills, all are discriminated against by these unfair exemptions in the law.

Through collective bargaining, however, the union has either completely or partly done away with these unfair exemptions in contracts covering seven out of every eight FTA workers in these industries. Eighty-five percent of all FTA dairy workers get full time and one-half pay after 40 hours a week.

The same thing is true for 80 percent of the workers covered by FTA contracts in the cottonseed oil industry, 71 percent of our cotton compress members, and two-thirds of the workers in FTA fruit and vegetable canneries.

The exemption has also been partly done away with in all of our packing shed agreements and most seafood contracts.

PAID VACATIONS

Vacation benefits in our contracts have been much improved during the last two years.

During the war, the National War Labor Board followed the policy of giving one week's vacation after one year of service and two weeks after five years.

Today, half of all FTA workers get more vacation than one week after one year and two weeks after five years, whereas two years ago less than one-third of our members got a better deal than this National War Labor Board standard.

More than one-fourth of our members get two weeks' vacation after just one year of service.

During the last two years we have obtained a third week of vacation in quite a few contracts. Ten percent of our members now get three weeks' vacation after from five to twenty-five years of employment.

In all, 82 percent of our members get vacations with pay. But if you don't count the highly seasonal plants which operate only a few weeks of the year, the proportion of workers who get paid vacations is almost 99 percent.

PAID HOLIDAYS

In 1942, about one-fourth of the workers covered by FTA contracts got paid holidays. Since then we have improved our contracts, so that today well over half of our members are entitled to holidays with pay. Half of them get six or more paid holidays every year.

Practically all cigar agreements provide six or more paid holidays. Other industries where six or more paid holidays are the rule are grain processing, where 81 percent of our members get such benefits, horticulture (77 percent), cottonseed oil (69 percent), and canning (63 percent).

HEALTH AND WELFARE BENEFITS

As mentioned in this column last month, contracts covering nearly two-fifths of all FTA workers provide some kind of health and welfare benefits paid for by the company. These include such things as life insurance, paid sick leave, old age pensions, hospitalization, and sickness benefits.

EMPLOYMENT GUARANTEES

One of the main needs of workers today is protection against layoffs and unemployment. This has led to labor's demand for a "guaranteed wage," whereby workers are guaranteed a definite amount of work or wages in advance.

FTA has already made progress on this kind of job security. In some FTA contracts, particularly in the dairy industry, regular workers are guaranteed 40 hours or more of work the year-round.

In seasonal industries such as fish canning, a number of our contracts guarantee a minimum number of hours of work or pay for the season. In some cases a definite amount of wages is guaranteed for the season's work.

Other contracts guarantee a full week's work to all those workers reporting for work the first day of the week. Still others guarantee work or wages in proportion to the workers' length of service with the company.

Altogether, 14 percent of the workers under FTA contracts are covered by employment or wage guarantee clauses of one kind or another. Industries in which such benefits are most common are fish canning, grain processing and dairy products.

Fines totaling $43,000 were imposed on the billion-dollar E. I. duPont de Nemours Co. and five other defendants for conspiring to restrain and monopolize world trade in titanium pigments.

With unemployment on the upgrade, the Alameda County (Calif.) CIO Council charged that the Oakland office of the State Employment Dept. is understaffed, inefficient and unable to handle the growing number of jobless benefit applicants.

Sixty Days of Failure

(Continued from Page 2)

Health Insurance

Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill for compulsory medical insurance paid for by equal tax on employers and workers was re-introduced in both Houses (S 5, Sen. Murray and others—HR 788, Rep. Dingell). No hearings have been scheduled by Ways and Means Committee in House or Labor and Public Welfare Committee to which the bill was reported in the Senate. American Medical Association is working hard and spending huge slush fund on lobbying against these bills.

VI. TAXES

No Administration bill introduced to carry out Truman's request for $4 billion to come from corporate taxes and middle and upper incomes. Chairman Doughton of House Ways and Means and Chairman George (D., Ga.) of Senate Finance (committees which consider tax legislation) have stated opposition to Truman proposal, as have other Democrats.

VII. PRICE CONTROL—DEPRESSION

House

Administration bill finally introduced February 15 (HR 2756) by Spence (D., Ky.), Chairman of House Banking and Currency Committee. Bill looks both ways—to more high prices or continuing layoffs and depression—and does nothing in either direction. Provides "stand-by" controls previously proposed by Truman.

Senate

No bill introduced. Banking and Currency Committee will hold hearings beginning the middle of March and propose bill when hearings are completed.

Joint Senate-House Committee on the Economic Report heard members of President's Council of Economic Advisors and others warn that the break in farm prices requires control of other prices to avoid a big bust. Testimony also brought out that no plans are completed for public works program to give jobs to increasing number of unemployed.

VIII. UMT AND THE DRAFT

Although the Army has temporarily suspended inductions, no action is scheduled on Marcantonio's bill to repeal the draft act. Administration bill has been introduced in the Senate (S 66) providing for Universal Military Training. No hearings scheduled.

IX. FOREIGN POLICY

Hearings have been finished in both the House and Senate on Administration proposal for $5,580,000,000 appropriation to continue the Marshall Plan for another 15 months.

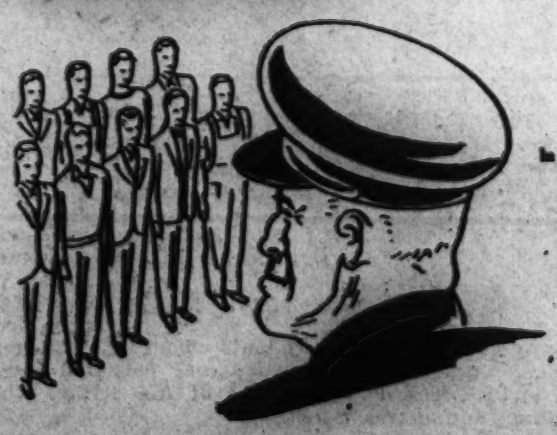
Senate Foreign Relations Committee, consulting State Dept. officials, is drafting North Atlantic Military Pact in closed sessions.

X. REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

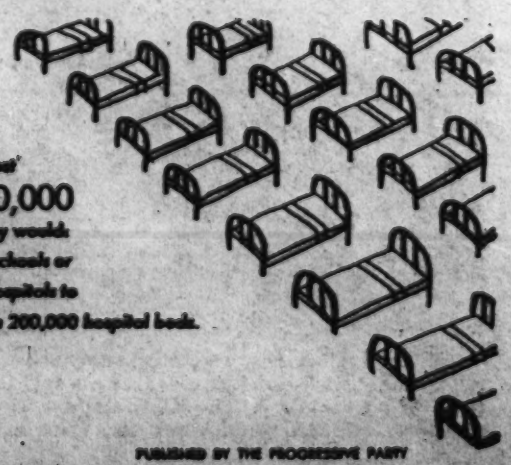
Very little cooking so far on new valley authorities of TVA type. Senator Murray (D., Mont.) and 13 others introduced Missouri Valley Authority bill (S 1160) March 2. This is the single most important proposed development. Truman is reported more interested in Columbia Valley Authority because of his long friendship with opponents of MVA in states affected.

WHAT THE COLD WAR COSTS US

Truman budget wastes
$540,000,000
on dictatorships in Greece, Turkey, China, Korea. This same money would:
Build a school in every Congressional District
or
Build the St. Lawrence Seaway and Power Project



In '51, UMT would cost
$2,000,000,000
This same money would:
Build 2,000 schools or
enough hospitals to
provide 200,000 hospital beds.



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Political Action

Back Independent Role In Politics, Elections

Independent action is the keystone of progress on the political front, the delegates to the 7th FTA Convention declared in a resolution passed after full discussion in committee on the convention floor.

This independence must include retention of "all the rights that belong to autonomous unions, including the right to disagree on policies and the right to work out and act on policies of our own choosing, regardless of any commitments that may be made to any particular political party or political leader."

The resolution further pledged FTA to "continue working with CIO-PAC and other unions and groups dedicated to the welfare of the workers."

Text follows:

The November elections showed that the voters wanted a program of peace and security, and that they believed such a program could be won by voting the Democratic Party into power.

In doing so the voters demonstrated their independence of big business and its newspapers, radio and other high-pressure agencies which told them over and over again that the Republicans, openly the party of big business, were going to win.

The voters also brushed aside the defeatism and do-nothing attitude of certain labor leaders who shared the opinions of the newspapers and the radio commentators. The election reaffirmed the fact that the American voter holds to his independence and votes as he pleases, no matter what the apparent odds may be.

PROGRESSIVE PARTY ROLE

This same independence of political action motivated those who supported Henry Wallace and the Progressive Party during the campaign. This independent spirit has always been the goal of free Americans and has been fiercely defended since the birth of our country.

The election campaign was fought on the issues of civil rights and economic security, with the question of foreign policy and peace kept officially in the background.

The nature of the campaign showed the effects of the Progressive Party demand for action on such domestic issues as Taft-Hartley repeal, social security extension, lower prices and higher living standards, civil rights and the like. Without this pressure, it is certain that these issues would not have been raised and more than doubtful that President Truman would have won.

Now that the election is over, it is more than ever necessary that the workers retain their right to independent political action free of coercion from any source. Militant political action and unity of all workers are needed to put the program for the people voted for into effect. The fight in the 81st Congress has just begun. Hesitation and disunity now will invite certain defeat.

FTA IN FRONT

The members of FTA have always been in the forefront of independent political action. They have always cooperated fully on the basis of program with other labor and progressive groups. The workers in our industries are well aware of the need for continuous political action to protect and improve the gains won by our union.

Therefore, the 7th Convention of FTA reaffirms the right to independent political action which belongs to all Americans, and pledges to exercise that right to achieve the economic and social programs set forth and approved by our union membership.

We further reaffirm our pledge to continue working with CIO-PAC and other unions and groups dedicated to the welfare of the workers. We urge all FTA local unions to establish active political action committees.

In so doing we shall retain all the rights that belong to autonomous unions, including the right to disagree on policies and the right to work out and act on policies of our own choosing, regardless of any commitments that may be made to any particular political party or political leader.

Close to 100 delegates and observers came to the 7th FTA Convention held in Santa Cruz, Calif. Despite the distance and cost of travel, all regions of the union were represented. The 7th was the first FTA convention to be held in California, which was chosen as site by unanimous vote of the 6th Convention, held in Philadelphia.

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No one had any cause for regret. California hospitality was up to tradition. Weather was mild and sunny and the little seashore resort of Santa Cruz exercised considerable restraint—prices of meals merely doubled when the convention hit town.

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While FTA delegates were coming into the hotel, a group of merry businessmen known as "the Jesters" were winding up a hilarious convention of their own. One of them was so overcome with the merriment of it all that he went through a glass revolving door without the formality of opening it. Fellow jesters picked up the pieces—both of him and of the door.

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Among delegates from the west coast were Filipino workers who struck the asparagus fields last year, held their strike over when the season ended. They showed an exhibit of pictures of field workers' "housing"—a term that is used by courtesy only. Shacks were as bad and worse than anything found in the deep South or the slums of the big cities.

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But then, as President Truman says, slums are a national blight, pretty much the same everywhere. Incidentally, President Truman and the 81st Congress propose to house the 10 million illhoused at the rate of 800,000 every 10 years. A statistician has figured out that there will be 20 million more illhoused at the end of this "emergency" program.

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Some trouble was experienced with the mike on the convention floor. From time to time it would develop a monotonous whistling sound that defied all efforts to stop it. Delegates would speak into it and the thing would just whistle. One said it reminded him of management when you ask for a wage raise.

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Or perhaps the 81st Congress when it comes to repealing the Taft-Hartley law.

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Harry Bridges, who was scheduled to speak at the convention, had to go to the hospital instead for a serious operation. Greetings and wishes for a quick recovery were sent by the delegates. Incidentally, the San Francisco newspapers which fight Bridges and all other unions carried daily bulletins on his condition. Seems the employers must have been deeply interested in Harry's health.

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Hit of the convention was the California Labor School song group that entertained during the banquet and after. One of the singers said he'd never seen such a musical bunch as FTA. Delegate after delegate got up to do his or her piece into the mike, was roundly applauded. But then, FTA has always been a singing army—and as somebody (was it Napoleon?) once said, a singing army is a winning army.

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One delegation in particular felt proud of the record they brought to the convention. That was Local 78's group, which could (and did) recount the story of how they beat Dave Beck and the Teamsters, for all their $20,000,000 treasury and their almost equally large number of goons.

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Matter of fact, FTA has a pretty good record of taking on all comers when its a matter of raiding. General Officers' Report tells the story—raids by AFL and CIO involving some 20,000 FTA members. Total membership lost to raiders, 2,000.

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We hereby refer all would-be raiders to these figures. They make worthwhile reading.

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California—here we came!

Must Fight To Win Rights

By Rep. Vito Marcantonio
American Labor Party

One thing the American people surely voted for was a civil rights program. All parties had civil rights planks in their platforms. Only the most rabid Dixiecrats dared oppose the program openly.

Among the strongest supporters of a program of true democracy for all, as I know from my own experience, are the members of FTA.

Now the promises of both Democrats and Republicans are once more being betrayed. The program you and I fought for is in danger.

The headlines have focused attention on the problem of filibuster. The filibuster is truly the last line of defense of the Dixiecrats. But the first round in the fight against jimcrow has already been fought in the House of Representatives. I am sorry to have to report to you that the first round was won by the champions of white supremacy.

A small group of us, Congressmen who took campaign promises seriously, fought for an amendment which would have ended segregation in facilities in the District of Columbia paid for by the government. A majority laid their parties' pledges aside and voted against the amendment.

MAJORITY WRONG

Here was no filibuster whereby a small group balked the will of the majority. The majority voted wrong. The Democratic-led 81st Congress, like the Republican-led 80th, failed in its first civil rights test. What is more, both Republicans and Democrats ganged up to beat the anti-segregation amendment.

I think it is my duty to tell these facts to the members of FTA, just as I will tell them in many public forums between now and 1950. The people have a right to expect that promises made to them will be carried out.

The leadership of both Democratic and Republican parties know this. That is why they have used parliamentary trickery to prevent a record vote on the first civil rights test. Those who have violated pledges want to hide what they have done, in the hope that by next elections all will be forgotten.

It will not be forgotten. The fight is going on. We may have lost the first round, but we will win in the last round—by a knockout.

The main battles are still ahead. The Congress will have to vote on a bill to kill the poll tax, on a bill to stop lynching and on a fair employment practises bill.

PROGRAM CAN BE WON

The whole program can be won. The campaign pledges will not be fulfilled if the administration makes a stand on the polltax and then turns to the voters saying, "We cannot deliver on FEPC." FEPC is the heart of the fight to end jimcrow.

Civil rights pledges were placed in the party platforms because the people wanted them there. The pledges will be redeemed by the passage of laws in the Congress — if the people let it be known that they are keeping an eye on what their chosen representatives do.

Unions like FTA played a major part in getting civil rights planks into the 1948 platform. They can also swing the balance in turning the promises into law.

Cardinal Spellman personally supervises grave-digging by young seminary students whom he led through FTA Local 293's picketline at Calvary Cemetery in New York, which is owned and operated by St. Patrick's Cathedral. The Cardinal's action was called strike-breaking by leaders of the strike, which was in its eighth week when the Cardinal's strike-breaking action was taken.

FTA Supports N.Y. Strikes

Full support for the members of FTA Local 293 on strike at the Calvary Cemetery in New York was voted by the 7th FTA convention meeting in Santa Cruz, Calif.

The resolution urged all FTA locals and members to send funds to the strikers, who have been on the picketline for nearly two months.

Reports that N. Y. city authorities are denying home relief to strikers who apply for it also point up the need. Funds should be rushed to: United Cemetery Workers Local 293, FTA-CIO, 938 Fourth Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Layoffs of 3,100 workers by three lines raised the total fired since the first of the year by railroads to some 15,000.

647 Wins Strike

Seven weeks on the picketline won an average 18 cent raise for members of FTA Local 647 in their strike against the De Nobili Cigar Corp. of New York.

Under the terms of settlement, De Nobili will pay $1.00 per 100 for Standard or Toscani cigars upon commencement of work and $1.10 for "long cigars." This will be increased to $1.05 and $1.15 per 100, beginning April 16. Comparable increases will be paid to other workers in the shop.

In the event of layoffs, the company has agreed to use a rotation system based on seniority lists previously agreed upon. Layoffs shall be limited to four weeks and none shall be made unless the daily quota of cigars drops to 1,000.

Complete unity of the workers and steady picketing did the job.

This is what the Dutch government—and the U. S. State Department—are doing to the Indonesian people in the so-called "police action" now being conducted in the East Indies with Marshall Plan help. FTA Convention resolution blasted U. S.-backed Dutch attacks on Indonesian people.